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Issue No 87
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May 13, 2009

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ISSN 1753-123-3



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WHEELY GOOD CLASSICS

An original Routemaster London bus will take passengers on rides during Faversham Classic Car Show.

The event kicks off at 10am this Sunday, with classic vehicles ranging from the 40-year-old bus to Daimlers, Rolls Royces, TVRs, Cadillacs and Ferraris. The event will also include music from the Faversham Air Training Corps Band, children's entertainment, a fun fair, stalls and street artists.

Several hundred exhibitors have already signed up for the show, which now has a selection of classic motorcycles too.

EXCLUSIVE

BY EMILY HALL

A PROBE has been launched into the use of a council's voicemail system – after staff were discovered diverting important phone calls while sitting at their desks.

Customers are said to be angry their queries are not getting answered at Swale council, where some officers appear to be phone shy.

The problem came to a head after customer service advisors at the Sittingbourne-based authority whinged that complaints were going unresolved as officers too often pulled the plug on incoming calls.

Some departments were even found to be constantly on voicemail.

An internal report due to be discussed at full council last night said the council's management team should "introduce either a policy or some golden rules on the use of voicemail to stop officers from diverting their phones to voicemail while at their desks".

It also warned that any voicemail the public could hear should not be days – or even weeks – out of date and waiting times were also brought up when some customers hung up because phones were unanswered.

The report said: "Panel members were informed that a considerable amount of time was wasted in tracking down officers and departments that are constantly on voicemail or did not leave an up-to-date message stating the date and time the voicemail was activated,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Children and staff at Aldington Primary School play their part in a world skipping record. **Search 'skipping'**



2 A barge is deliberately beached after it began sinking in the Channel. **Search 'barge'**



3 Gills boss Mark Stimson and defender Simon King talk about their chances in the League 2 play-off final. **Search 'Wembley'**

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CARBON FRIENDLY: New eco-friendly swimming pool cover will save thousands of pounds

Swimming pool goes undercover to cut emissions

■ BY NICK AMES

A NEW state-of-the-art cover at Faversham Pool will save the thousands of pounds while helping to stop global warming.

The cover, which is now in place, will stop heat escaping as the outdoors pool is warmed.

It is estimated the energy saved by the cover will equate to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 50 tonnes a year.

The cover will be used in the evenings throughout the summer months as part of Swale council's Carbon Management Plan, which was published last month.

The plan identifies projects that will help to cut carbon emissions in a bid to make the borough more environmentally friendly.

The Faversham Pool project is the first stage of the plan to be completed and has cost £5,300 but by the end of the summer it is estimated it will have made a saving of £9,000.

Earlier this year, the council also

took part in the World Wildlife Fund's 'Earth Hour' to highlight the issues of climate change and emphasise the need to reduce carbon emissions and reduce carbon footprint.

Janet Hill, Swale climate change officer, said: "The outside pool cover at Faversham Pool is just the beginning of plans to reduce carbon emissions in the borough.

"There are several projects that Swale council is keen to work on over the next four years which will help bring down our carbon emissions in line with government targets.

"Faversham Pool's outside cover will pay for itself after a very short time and start reducing carbon emissions straight away."

Roger Lake, Faversham Pool's manager, said: "We are excited to be the subject of the first completed project of Swale council's carbon management plan.

"The outside cover will help us to reduce our carbon emissions and become more eco-friendly.

"We are always keen to explore ideas to help the environment and we can't wait to see the results of how much energy we've saved at the end of the year."

yoursware

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brewery is pleased as Punch with new pubs

BREWER Shepherd Neame has bought 13 freehold pubs from Punch Taverns in a deal worth £14.9 million.

The pubs, three managed and ten leased, are all located in the South East, particularly around Greater London and Surrey, the group said.

The deal is the latest of a round of disposals by Punch, which is off-loading pubs to pay off debts.

The deal brings the Faversham-based brewer's total estate to 378 pubs - 49 managed pubs, and 329 tenanted and leased pubs.

If you don't know Jack about bowls, find out

FAVERSHAM Recreation Bowling Club is offering newcomers to the sport the chance to have a go at its open day on Saturday.

The event, from 10.30am and 4pm at the club's base at Faversham Recreation Ground, offers an opportunity to sample the game and see the new clubhouse.

Woods will be provided, but visitors are asked to wear flat-soled shoes. Members will be present to give advice on playing the game.

For more details call club secretary Ken Neame on 01795 533656.

Museum exhibits a treasure to behold

THE Fleur-de-Lis Museum is encouraging guests to come and see its many archaeological treasures over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

The museum, in Preston Street, Faversham, has an Elizabethan room, a 16th century merchant's chest, a Victorian schoolroom and kitchen, war zone and displays depicting industrial Faversham.

Admission charges are £3 for adults and £1.50 for concessions.

The museum is offering a two-for-one admittance deal from Saturday May 23 to Monday May 25.

It is open from 10am each morning with last entries at 3pm. For more details call 01795 590726.

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Protest to kill speed on 'terrifying' stretch of A2

EXCLUSIVE

BY EMILY HALL

DEMONSTRATORS at a roadside protest handed over a petition demanding action over speeding traffic on the A2.

Twenty people met with MP Hugh Robertson on Friday to ask for improvements on a stretch of the busy road between Love Lane and The Mall, Faversham.

Protest organiser, Angela Martin, has lived in a house on the main road for nine years and said that many cars did well over 40mph in the 30mph zone.

She said: "The people living here have nowhere to park but on the road, and five of us had our cars written off in three accidents over seven weeks between the start of December and January.

"It changed to 30mph from 40mph about a year ago, and obviously we are very happy with that, but a lot of drivers don't realise the speed limit has been lowered and continue to drive as they did before.

"The signage is also very poor – I think there's one 30mph sign on this bit which you could easily miss."

Mrs Martin's neighbours, Paul and Michelle Wells, fear for their daughter Adelaide, three.

"It is a worry," Mr Wells, 28, said. "There are a lot of families with young children round here and it almost makes us scared to leave our own front door."



LISTEN TO US: Crowd of protestors gathered to hand over their petition to improve road safety to MP Hugh Robertson

Over the road a house was even partly demolished when it was hit by traffic several years ago. Caroline Miller lives next to the property with her partner Richard Bates and daughters Niamh, two, and six-month-old Sofie.

Miss Miller said: "The lorries go past really, really fast, especially at night and a very close neighbour had their house damaged by a lorry, so we worry all the time that it may happen again.

"I have now got to the point where I am actually frightened to cross the road, especially with the kids, it's just terrifying."

Mr Robertson, Conservative MP for Faversham

and Mid Kent, said the case was unusual.

"I do think this road is a problem," he said.

"It's something of an unusual case as normally the difficulty for residents is getting the speed limit imposed.

"In this case they have the speed limit, it's just that it's not being enforced and that's obviously causing crashes.

"If people are having their cars written off then sooner rather than later there is going to be a fatality and that's why something must be done."

He will now hand the 411-signature petition to the Ministry of Transport.

Untaxed vehicles set to be 'cubed'

A CRACKDOWN on motoring offences called Operation Cubit has recently been taking place across Swale.

In the latest blitz, which sees Swale council working with Kent Police and Kent County Council, 38 vehicles were caught on the road without road tax. Of these, ten were caught in Faversham.

Nine offenders across the borough paid £260 on-the-spot penalties and 29 cars were seized and taken away to be crushed, cubed or resold.

Operation Cubit is a joint initiative that aims to quickly respond to the problem of untaxed, uninsured or abandoned vehicles, which can become a target for vandals.

Vehicles can be clamped, confiscated or removed and unless registered owners are able to pay the tax owing and provide valid MOT and insurance the vehicle will be crushed – or even cubed.

Alister Andrews, Swale council's environmental response manager, said: "We are pleased with these results. We hope these operations will deter other people from trying to bypass the law.

"Abandoned cars cause a safety hazard and spoil areas. Operations like these go a long way towards our objectives of creating a cleaner and a safer Swale."

Clean-up team to sweep up creek

A SPRING cleaning team is due to work on improving the landscape around Faversham Creek later this month.

Arrangements have been made with Swale council to remove any debris collected. Volunteers are being sought to assist in the clearing which will take place on May 29.

It is part of ongoing plans to clear up the area around the waterside and bring it forward as a tourist attraction.

'Calls were aborted due to the wait'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

and when they would return to their desk.

"The panel was also advised that when messages are left on voicemail and not followed up, a considerable amount of time is taken up when the resident gets back to the customer service centre and they are unaware of the problem or any solution which may or may not be ongoing.

"Some residents were aborting phone calls due to waiting times."

Council scrutiny officers took statements from several disgruntled customers at the end of last year and vowed to do something.

Council leader Andrew Bowles said: "Someone picked up on it being a problem and we need to investigate to discover whether that's true. "We monitor call times and when there was a slight problem we took extra trained staff on. The waiting times are well within our targets."

But when Yoursware tried to contact the council last week, we were kept waiting for nine minutes before being passed on – to someone's voicemail.

A council spokesman said: "All staff are reminded to check their voicemails and respond to customers quickly and efficiently."



COMPLEX OPERATION: The cannabis factory and dried leaves uncovered by drugs police

Police swoop on cannabis factory

POLICE officers who raided a cannabis factory seized more than 550 cannabis plants and over four kilos of dried cannabis leaves that were ready for sale.

Police estimate the haul has a street value of approximately £80,000.

The electricity meter had also been bypassed.

Officers from the Faversham Neighbourhood Team raided the smallholding in Throwley Forstal Road, Throwley Forstal, at 10am on Thursday, April 30.

A 59-year-old man arrested at the

scene has now been released on bail pending further inquiries.

PC Dave Mahon said: "Cannabis factories are relatively rare in this area, but we want to send a clear warning to anyone thinking about setting up similar factories, that even though this is a rural area, we will find out and we will close you down."

"We want to ensure our communities are free from drugs and would encourage local residents to contact us if they have any concerns or suspicions that drugs are being grown in their neighbourhood."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Keep up to date with theatre's progress online

THE new Marlowe Theatre has launched a website providing a glimpse of the past, present and future of the theatre as building work gets underway.

The site features videos – including an interview with Orlando Bloom – as well as artists' impressions of the new building.

Sagittarius Marketing have created the website to coincide with the launch of the £6 million fund-raising appeal to help pay for the development. Visit the new website at www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk

Cash stolen from strong box left in parked car

HUNDREDS of pounds in cash have been stolen from a parked car in Herne Bay.

The Vauxhall Frontera was in Central Avenue, Herne Bay, when the break-in occurred between 7pm on Saturday, May 2, and 9.45am on Sunday, May 3.

Several hundreds of pounds were taken from a strong box in the car, along with documents and a sat nav system. Anyone with information should call police on 01227 762055 quoting reference EY/007577/09, or call Kent CrimeStoppers on 0800 555111.

Scheme to benefit firms and college leavers

A PLAN to support small businesses and help college leavers find jobs has been signed by the council and Canterbury College.

The agreement will see the two combine resources to hold business and training events, encourage firms to start work experience schemes and work together to secure grants from other organisations.

The college will also aim to run training courses to teach students the skills local businesses need.

Discuss policing issues at community meeting

CRIME and policing issues in Tankerton can be discussed direct at a Police and Communities Together Meeting next week.

The Tankerton PACT group is holding an open meeting at 6pm on Monday, May 18, at the Marine Hotel, Marine Parade, Whitstable.

Working to give kids a better start

Foster parents provide vital support for thousands of children living in care across Britain. Each year, the Fostering Network charity holds Fostering Fortnight, to recruit more foster carers and help more children enjoy the benefits of a stable, supportive family. Yourcanterbury spoke to carpenter Tom Fahy about his experience of the care system, and how the right attention helped him turn his life around.

AS he talks animatedly about his plans to build schools in Vietnam, it is clear that Tom Fahy has all but overcome a difficult and occasionally abusive childhood spent in care.

Before coming to Whitstable-based agency Kasper Fostering, Tom, now 28, describes a life characterised by inconsistency and constant change as he and his brother moved from one foster family to the next, with little chance to settle, learn or build lasting friendships.

After his parent's relationship broke down, six-year-old Tom was told to make a decision.

"My dad said to me 'you've got a choice – you can stay with me, and not see your mum, or you can go into care.'

"Not seeing my mum wasn't an option, so I chose to go into care. Me and my brother had already been in temporary care, and that hadn't always been good, but there was no choice as far as I was concerned."

From there the Fahy brothers were swallowed up by a fostering system which was very different from that of today.

Tom said: "We were sent to foster parents in Aylesbury. They used to knock us about. No reason really, just silly things. They just weren't very nice people.

fostering
a career that changes lives

"One day my brother didn't want to eat his toast because she'd put too much Marmite on it, and she just smacked it into his face.

"It got really bad. They moved us on after I managed to sneak a note to my mum during a visit, telling her what was going on."

Apart from a nine-month spell in a children's home, Tom and his brother were moved roughly every six months. The constant upheaval took its toll.

Tom said: "There was no consistency in anything. That was the main thing. I didn't realise it at the time; you just get on with it because you have to, try to make the best of each situation. I've always been a positive person.

"But it has affected me... if you have a stable background, you can get on with things like education. If you have a very inconsistent life, it makes you inconsistent."

But when he was 14 things changed. Tom and his brother were sent to Kasper, and finally things began to change for the better.

Tom said: "They helped me turn my life around. For Kasper fostering, it wasn't just a job.



FULL CIRCLE: Carpenter Tom Fahy has turned his life around with the help of Kasper Fostering

"Some of the other families and agencies weren't that bad, but you always knew there was a difference between you and their other kids. They would do things with them they wouldn't do with us."

The agency's founder, Mac Ornsby, became Tom's key worker, helping him get on to a carpentry course at Thanet College, and become increasingly independent.

Tom said: "He helped set me up really, sorted me out a flat right next to the college and furnished it with everything I needed.

"He'd visit me twice a week to make sure I was ok."

Tom completed his course, and now works as a successful carpenter.

It was through one of his customers that Tom got involved in the charity work which means so much to him.

"I was doing some work for this bloke in Thanet and he asked me to go with him to Vietnam to help with his charity, Jim International.

"I thought that after Kasper had done so much for me, I should give something back. There are these kids over there who live in an absolute dump.

"We built a playground last time, and now we've done that we can get more funding and start building a school.

"I feel like my life has gone full circle."



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"Perfect platform for finding new suppliers and networking" - Croner
"Excellent show got 56 leads with several proposals already out." - GEP Safety Consultants
"Excellent well run Show" - GSE Holdings

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Why eating out could affect your hearing

RESTAURANTS could increase customer numbers – and profits – by softening their image, according to a hearing expert.

The stark, contemporary look of many establishments may be trendy, but it makes holding a conversation difficult, especially for the increasing number of people suffering from hearing problems says Dr Mark Scutchings, director of Hearbase, Canterbury.

He said: "Most of the problems with higher noise levels come from reflected sound. The modern trend is for hard lines and surfaces, which reflect sound.

"Restaurants that look like your granny's living room are not likely to do very well at the moment, though they are much better in terms of being able to hold a conversation."

Dr Scutchings has been testing noise levels in restaurants all over the city, with the loudest – Wagamama – hitting an average of 85 decibels, the level at which the Health and Safety Executive says damage can occur to the hearing of people regularly exposed to it.

He said that by increasing the amount of fabric decor such as curtains, tablecloths and carpets, more sound would be absorbed, reducing the amount of overall noise.

Such a move may even have economic benefits, as many people with hearing problems do not go out to eat or socialise because they find it difficult to follow conversation.

Dr Scutchings said: "It's very isolating. If you ask someone who has full use of their sight and hearing which they would rather lose, most people will say hearing. If you ask someone with hearing and sight difficulties, the answer is often the opposite.

"There are 60 million people in Britain, and seven per cent have some kind of hearing problem – many of whom will not go out to restaurants or pubs because they can't hear.

"Maybe restaurants don't care, but that is a lot of potential customers."

Dr Scutchings' company, Hearbase, based at the Chaucer Hospital in Canterbury, does a wide range of audiology related work from testing noise levels in workplaces to assessing patients.

He is concerned by the number of people



ISOLATED: Many people may be put off eating out because modern restaurant design makes it difficult for them to hear what's going on

who are unaware that many normal activities, such as listening to an mp3 player, watching a band or going clubbing may be damaging their hearing.

He said: "We are not trying to scare people, but they should at least be informed about the potential risks. Then if they want to turn their ipod up to 130 decibels it's up to them."

FACTFILE

- Some people are genetically susceptible than others to hearing loss, but there is no way to tell.
- Noise levels of 140 decibels can cause immediate and permanent hearing loss.
- Warning signs of damaged hearing include: Difficulty following conversations in public places. Tinnitus – ringing or buzzing in your ears after a night out. Temporary reduction in hearing

yourswale

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cultural trail celebrated

THE Herne Bay cultural trail will celebrate its launch this weekend with celebrations and events in the town.

There will be military vehicles, a 1940s-style singer and a 25-piece brass band in Mortimer Street. There will also be re-enactment societies representing the Home Guard and the RAF's 212 squadron.

At noon, 50 ex-servicemen will march through Mortimer Street to the Sir Barnes Wallis statue at Beacon Hill for a ceremony. Sir Barnes Wallis invented the bouncing bomb, which was tested in Reculver.

The ex-servicemen will then march to the British Legion in Central Parade.

Artist Penny Bearman will be in Mortimer Street, sketching locals who would like to appear on her Famous Faces mural.

The celebrations run from 11am-3pm on Saturday, May 16. The new, free Herne Bay guide will be available from Saturday.

Meet Lord Ashdown

FORMER MP, Liberal Democrat leader, spy and member of the Special Boat Service Paddy Ashdown will be visiting Canterbury to answer your questions.

Lord Ashdown will talk about his experiences, answer questions and sign copies of his autobiography, *A Fortunate Life*, at the International Study Centre in the Cathedral Precincts at 7.30pm on Thursday, June 18.

Tickets are £15 from the Marlowe box office on 01227 787787, from the Canterbury visitor information centre or online at www.new-marlowetheatre.com

Craft fair offers variety

MAKE-do-and-mend is enjoying a new vogue according to a Whitstable craftswoman who has organised a fair in the town

Helen King sews, and makes dolls, purses and children's clothes.

The fair will be able to offer quirky and original items for sale from crafts enthusiasts and artists.

Stalls will hold seaside decorations, cards, bags, jewellery, barge art, bunting, soft toys, household goods, photos and homemade food.

The craft and gift fair will take place at St Mary's Hall, Oxford Street Whitstable between 10am and 4.30pm on Saturday, May 30.

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Can you help cops catch this man?

A CCTV image of a burglar who broke into a King's School dorm has been released by police.

The man was disturbed by a pupil as he tried to steal a laptop and ran off from the school. He is believed to be aged between 25 and 35, 5ft 11ins tall and wore a light jacket with a hoop pattern, jeans and dirty trainers.

He broke into one of the boarding houses at 11.20am on March 18 but detectives decided to release the CCTV footage this week in the hope that someone will recognise him.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det Constable Chris Owen on 01227 868355 or you can call the Crimestoppers number anonymously on 0800 555111.

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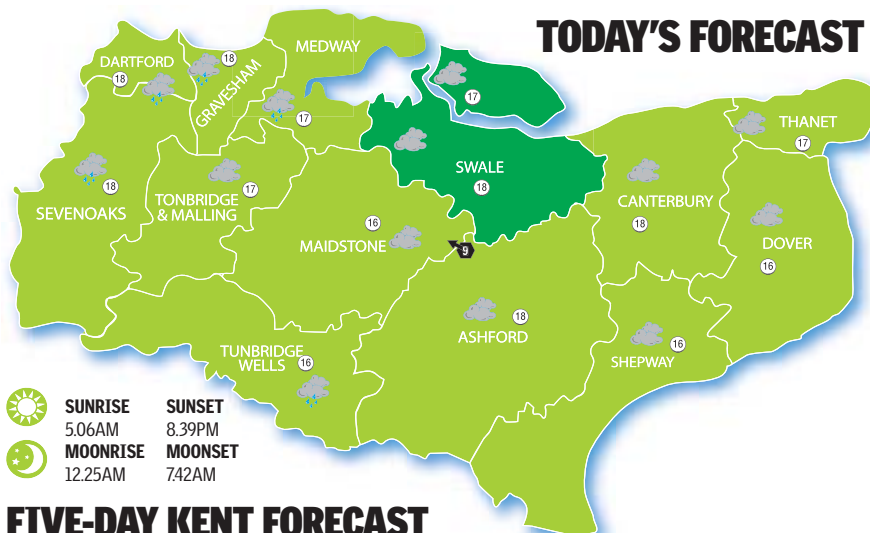
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	5:53pm	5.0m
	Sunday	6:41am	4.8m
Dover	Saturday	4:36pm	5.5m
	Sunday	5:37pm	5.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	4:23pm	6.2m
	Sunday	5:27pm	6.0m
Ramsgate	Saturday	5:06pm	4.2m
	Sunday	6:07pm	4.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	5:42pm	4.8m
	Sunday	6:30am	4.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	5:52pm	4.5m
	Sunday	6:47am	4.4m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	15°C	Madrid	22°C
Athens	25°C	New York	18°C
Barcelona	19°C	Paris	16°C
Beijing	27°C	Rome	24°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	18°C
Cape Town	18°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	15°C	Tokyo	22°C
Gibraltar	21°C	Vancouver	15°C
Hong Kong	31°C	Warsaw	18°C
Las Palmas	22°C	Wellington	10°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	15°C	19°C	16°C	15°C	15°C	Gravesend	15°C	19°C	15°C	15°C	15°C
Canterbury	14°C	17°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	Maidstone	14°C	18°C	15°C	15°C	14°C
Chatham	12°C	17°C	13°C	13°C	13°C	Ramsgate	14°C	17°C	15°C	15°C	15°C
Dartford	15°C	19°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	Rochester	12°C	17°C	13°C	13°C	13°C
Dover	12°C	16°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	Sevenoaks	12°C	17°C	14°C	13°C	13°C
Faversham	12°C	17°C	13°C	13°C	13°C	Sittingbourne	12°C	17°C	13°C	13°C	13°C
Folkestone	12°C	16°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	Tonbridge	13°C	18°C	15°C	15°C	14°C
Gillingham	12°C	17°C	13°C	13°C	13°C	Tun Wells	13°C	18°C	15°C	15°C	14°C

Have your say on alcohol control zones at meeting

PEOPLE will be asked for their views on plans to introduce alcohol control zones in Sheerness, Leydown and Faversham.

Following on from a similar scheme in Sittingbourne, Swale council hopes to bring the idea to other problem areas, as exclusively revealed by Yoursware three weeks ago.

The zones will mean anyone drinking in the street could be arrested or slapped with a £50 fine if they refuse to surrender booze to an officer – and they can only be introduced in areas with proven alcohol-related disorder problems.

Deter jobs

Council community safety officer, Charlotte Hudson, said it wouldn't make public drinking illegal, but would help deter jobs.

"Having seen the success that we have had with this idea in Sittingbourne, it is right that we should think about extending it now," she said.

"It is so important that all visitors, residents and businesses are able to enjoy the benefits of a vibrant town centre without having to endure the disorder or behaviour of people who have consumed too much alcohol.

"We believe that extending the scheme will spread its success."

People can send their views to Ms Hudson at Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT. The consultation will last until May 28.

She will also be at Sheerness Healthy Living Centre on Friday, May 22, between 11.30am and 1.30pm and Leydown Village Hall on Thursday, May 21, between 7.30pm and 9.30pm, to hear your views.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

LUKE JOHNSON



Q Tell us a little about yourself.

A I was born in Halifax, West Yorkshire. I'm president of The Kent Motorcycle Society (KMS) at the University of Kent, where I'm studying law and French.

Q What is Kent Motorcycle Society?

A KMS is a university society. We have around 25 members who are university students. Others that come along are either ex-students or are friends from London and around Kent. The society started four years ago, when a friend decided it would be good for all the students on campus with motorbikes to socialise. We go to the pub during the week and at weekends we go riding. Since I took the presidency this year, membership has grown. We've started looking at ways to teach people to ride. This year we have had free taster sessions with South East Motorcycles at Thanet and the society subsidises the test fee.

Q How did you get involved?

A The university runs a freshers' fare at the start of every year where the new students come along and check out the different societies on campus. I'd heard about the KMS and really wanted to join. I'd just passed my bike test when I started university so I wanted to get out on the road with everybody. I had a

field bike when I was 13 that I had paid for by doing two paper rounds. I sold that and always wanted to get riding again. After I had lived in Japan for a while I saw a bike out there that I really liked, so when I got back I bought one and spent six months polishing it before I passed my test. When I got riding again, the bike got cleaned less and less. It was far more fun to ride than polish.

Q What kind of events do you hold?

A We all go riding most weekends and attend the bike shows in London, which did take some organising in previous years. However, the university has been really good and paid for us to be trained to drive the minibuses, which they provide for free. That's made it a lot easier to get everybody involved. We've also had trips over to France and across Europe. We're planning a camping trip to the Isle of Man TT this year.

Q How can people get involved?

A Membership is limited to university students, but we welcome anybody along as if they were. People can always send us an email. We're happy to offer general advice and information. If people would like to come riding then we'd welcome them along too. We send out email updates giving details of rides and trips. If anybody is interested in being

added to our mailing list they can send us their details by email.

Q Do you ever get compared to the Hells Angels?

A I had a cruiser last year and liked to picture myself as Arnold Schwarzenegger, but it wasn't really happening. A lot of the lads ride sports bikes so we're all about the speed, the image carries itself.

Q What is your favourite bike?

A Norton, the old British marque, is to start producing bikes again after around 40 years of being defunct. I'd love to get my hands on one of the new ones but there's a limited run of 200 this year until production steps up and there'll be a lot of competition to get one!

Q Do you think biking is dangerous?

A Anybody who's never tried biking would tell you it's dangerous. Biking is just as safe as being in a car or on a bus. I've never had a bump, crash, scratch or fall. I'm living proof that being on two wheels doesn't carry life threatening injuries with it. I've never been in a difficult situation I wasn't able to avoid with a bit of quick manoeuvring.

• To be added to the mailing list, email KMS at kentmotorcyclesociety@gmail.com

Q & A

The president of The Kent Motorcycle Society and student at University of Kent, spoke to **Laurence Mozafari** about what the club does, his favourite bike and pretending to be Arnold Schwarzenegger

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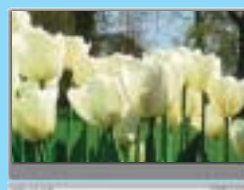
Stockport Morris side at Rochester Sweeps Festival. Search 'Sweeps'



Director Paul Hendy on panto star Ade Edmondson. Search 'Hendy'



Bollywood dance workshop during the Fuse Festival. Search 'dance'



Produced in Kent's cherry trail at Doddington Place Gardens. Search 'cherry'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

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'Lusty' salute to Navy pioneers

THE flagship of the Royal Navy, HMS Illustrious, steamed majestically around the coast of Kent on its way to a royal reception.

Setting out from Portsmouth, the 22,000-tonne aircraft carrier headed out into the English Channel and rounded Dungeness before sailing past Dover, around Thanet, past the Isle of Sheppey and under the bridge at Dartford before mooring off Greenwich.

The cruise formed part of the celebrations marking 100 years of naval aviation – the service acquired its first airship in 1909.

Guest of honour on board for a special dinner was Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, who was joined by defence secretary John Hutton.

During the voyage the Navy's head of aviation, Rear Admiral Simon Charlier, arrived on board at the controls of a Merlin helicopter.

"I love flying," he said. "And when you are an admiral, it's easy to get the controls."

The officer, who attended Dover College where he captained the sailing team, said: "This centenary is a big celebration. After two world wars and other conflicts, we are looking to the future and I know our proud traditions will be maintained."

HMS Illustrious is the nation's strike carrier, with Harrier jets and helicopters flying from its deck.

The ship is responsible for home defence and protecting air power abroad, having recently been deployed off both Iraq and Afghanistan.

She is also a major factor in the UK's response to international disasters, assisting humanitarian operations in Mozambique and evacuating civilians from danger zones.

When HMS Illustrious sailed around the south coast to mark the centenary of naval aviation, our reporter **NICK AMES** was on board to meet the crew who patrol the high seas for Queen and country

BRITISH SEA POWER: HMS Illustrious sailed from Portsmouth to London to mark the centenary of naval aviation



PICTURES: NICK AMES



FLY AND MIGHTY: Harrier on carrier's flight deck

The ship – known affectionately as 'Lusty' by her crew – came into service in 1982 and is due to be retired in the next decade and replaced by two 'super carriers', the 63,000-tonne Queen Elizabeth II and Prince of Wales.

"A lot of people don't really know what ships do," said Sub-Lieutenant Matthew Winwood, from Gillingham, who is training to be a mine clearance diver.

"After all, they are usually out at sea. This is a chance for people to get a good look at us as we sail past the coast."

The captain of Illustrious is Ben Key, whose grandfather fought at the Battle of Jutland in the Great War. Capt Key, whose grandmother is from Canterbury, explained his role.

"I have the best job in the Royal Navy," he said. "My task is to take whatever I am asked

to do by the Commander-in-Chief and achieve it. I have to ensure all the potential, talent and energy among my crew is pointing in the same direction to achieve the goal we aim for."

Before embarking on her voyage, Illustrious

was moored next to the Navy's newest warship, the Type 45 destroyer HMS Daring, the most advanced combat vessel in the world.

She then sailed south past the Isle of Wight where a Harrier jet piloted by Lt Paul Francis touched down on deck.

Sea King, Merlin and Lynx helicopters followed and were all on parade as the ship sailed through the Thames Barrier – with just a few feet of clearance each side – and arrived in London last Wednesday. For trainee officer Dan Howes, from Lydden, it was quite an experience.

"It is really my first time at sea," he said.

"But I know what I want to do – fly Harriers. It must be an incredible buzz."

His friend and fellow trainee Dominic Savage, from Whitstable, said: "My father was in the Navy, as was my grandfather who fought in World War Two. I wanted to follow in their footsteps – and I'm glad I did."



BLADE RUNNER: A Lynx helicopter on Illustrious



CAPITAL GAINS: Docklands and Canary Wharf provide an impressive backdrop for the carrier's arrival in London



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Serving You

Sally's cool idea which makes summer special

ICE cream has evolved considerably in recent years.

The likes of Häagen-Dazs and Ben & Jerry's have taken the humble dish and elevated it to a whole new level of quality and accessibility.

Yet, as with so many things, just once in a while the mass-produced products find themselves eclipsed by something a little more, well, home grown.

And it is from Kent that one particular product has grown a reputation which seems to make it destined for national appeal.

As such, it fits perfectly our 2009 campaign encouraging our readers to support local growers, suppliers and producers, spearheaded by our



www.foodforkent.co.uk website.

Simply Ice Cream grew off the back of a successful catering business, an aspect of the overall package that proved such a hit with customers that they inundated caterer Sally Newall with demands for more.

Her home made recipe was proving a taste sensation and it quickly became apparent it was worth pushing as a business in itself.

The businesswoman started selling the ice cream through her local farmshop at Sellindge, near Ashford, in 2005. It started



SIMPLY THE BEST: Ice-cream maker Sally Newall

an incredible chain reaction. Six months later five more shops starting selling it; then 15 in 2007; and now it's stocked in 65 locations in and around Kent, landing a host of awards, and, more recently, securing a distribution deal to be stocked in Kent outlets

of the upmarket supermarket chain Waitrose. Just to enhance its proposition further, celebrity TV chef James Martin used the honeycomb variety on his BBC show Saturday Kitchen – and declared it the “best bought ice cream available”.

What's more, it uses as many locally produced flavours and fruits as possible.

Mrs Newall said: “We make it by hand. Traditionally, ice cream is made by skimmed milk powders and water and they can pump quite a lot of air in. So we've tried to make it like it used to be made.

“We use double cream, milk and sugar and fresh fruit. They are as natural as possible. The fruit is all from Kent when we can get it, – so last year we did strawberry, cherry, blackcurrant – and we try to source things as locally as possible.

“If we make it ourselves we know what goes into it. There are no additives or preservatives, which is at the heart of our ethos. We try to avoid that where possible.”

Mrs Newall was brought up in Kent and apart from a five-year stay in Australia, has lived in the same area of the county. The Simply Ice Cream business is based in the village of Bonnington, near Ashford.

“I am surprised at how it has taken off,” Mrs Newall said. “With all small businesses there are peaks and troughs and our business plan has always been to double our turnover year on year, which we have managed, but there are still some moments where I wonder what am I doing.”

After clinching the Waitrose deal, talks are now under way aimed at taking the product across the UK, spearheaded by its hugely popular Honeycomb Crunch variety.

Cherries on the cake

A SPECTACULAR array of cherry blossoms greeted children visiting Doddington Gardens for the launch of a walk celebrating some of the county's finest fruit.

Pupils from Lynsted School were treated to a cream tea at the Produced in Kent event, which unveiled the cherry-inspired route as a taster for an expected bumper harvest.

Produced in Kent is supporting our campaign and our www.foodforkent.co.uk website. The new 36 mile circular walk runs from Doddington church, following footpaths, quiet lanes and a mix of traditional and commercial orchards which will ripen in July. Produced in Kent is creating a brochure to tie in with its Cherry Ripe trail which will feature details of the firms selling the cherries to be found along the walk.

Julie Monkman, manager of Produced in Kent, said: “We've all heard of the benefits of eating five and day and consuming more superfoods and Kent can stand proud and shout loud about its own super fruit. There is evidence that food grown, picked and consumed locally retains more of its natural goodness and cherries are packed with antioxidant vitamins A and C.”

Visit www.producedinkent.co.uk for more information about Produced in Kent and the cherry walk.



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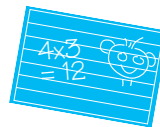
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CHAPTER AND VERSE: Fulston Manor pupils have been packing into their school library during their lunch hours

The future is an open book for Year of Reading

"ONE of the best anti-poverty, anti-deprivation, anti-crime, anti-vandalism policies you can think of".

That was the view of Prime Minister Gordon Brown, speaking during the launch the Year of Reading at 10 Downing Street.

It is a message fully endorsed at Fulston Manor School, which prides itself on the reading skills of its pupils and the library it has built up to encourage them further.

A spokesman at the Sittingbourne school said pupils had embraced the Year of Reading in their spare time, knowing reading helps to build character, increases social understanding and improves life chances.

"The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development found that the amount of reading for pleasure a child does is often an accurate predictor of academic achievement," he said.

"The good news is parents can make an enormous difference to children's reading habits and it doesn't have to cost any money.

"Books are available free from public libraries and school libraries, and can be picked up for a few pence at charity shops

■ BY NICK AMES

and jumble sales, and ten minutes a day spent reading with a child from an early age can create a situation where children learn to love books and reading.

"This gift can stay with them for life and improve all aspects of their life and well-being. Unfortunately we live in pressured times and other things get in the way of sharing reading with our children."

The spokesman added: "Fulston Manor is a great advocate of reading and the library has been given great support by senior management for its encouragement of the reading habit.

"We have built up a library which is open throughout the day from 8.15am to 4.15pm, is welcoming and well-stocked, and is used by students and teachers for many purposes.

"It is obviously important to have resources students want to use and we keep up to date with what is popular in both fiction and non-fiction.

Magazines, newspapers, travel brochures, leaflets are all available as well as books, and there are comfortable chairs and beanbags for readers to use."

BREAK TIME

The voters of tomorrow meet today's MP



MP DEREK Wyatt visited Minterne School in Sittingbourne to speak about his political career. He told year six pupils what it was like to be an MP and what his duties

involved. He outlined the role of a constituency MP and how he represented the interests of families and businesses in Sittingbourne and Sheppey.

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Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Swale...

Gurkha darling Joanna would be absolutely fabulous as PM

I KNOW it's not just me but I can't help echoing a call that has been resonating across Britain for the past week or so.

Joanna Lumley for Prime Minister!

What she has done for the Gurkhas – put their case so eloquently and passionately to the highest authority in the land – she could do for the rest of us.

No more panics over swine flu, expenses-grabbing and second homes scandals with Prime Minister Lumley.

Her seemingly endless list of virtues would ensure she would be forgiven anyway – at least by the male half of the population.

She may be past her New Avengers era youth but she still has the blonde tresses, willowy figure and ability to look sexy while brandishing a kukri. But that's not all.

She knows how to play the political game.

Her address to Gordon Brown says it all. "Now I feel we have got to the head man,"

Joanna said after her meeting. "The man at the top, the leader of our entire nation."

At a time when Gordon has very few friends – how he must have loved hearing that.

Flattery will get you everywhere when it comes to playing the political game, and laid on by an attractive woman it will certainly work wonders. But it is also her essential "goodness" at a time when so much of politics, the media and just about everything else is desperately cynical, which is so appealing.

Whether it be fronting travel shows where her enthusiasm, way with people and total lack of condescension set her apart from most other presenters or petitioning for Compassion in World Farming by taking piglets to Parliament, she manages to strike the right chord.

And what about her experience of life?

Compared with all who sit in Parliament and have made a career of politics she has it in abundance. A Bond girl in On Her Majesty's Secret Service, battling the country's enemies assisting a man armed only with a bowler hat

and another with the worst taste in ties ever on screen in the New Avengers, or cutting a swathe through the fashion business in Absolutely Fabulous – what can compare?

Oh, and a spot of time travel in Sapphire and Steel, which was a show I don't think anyone but me ever watched.

But it all adds up to someone who will bring colour, honesty and fun to Parliament.

Above all she is essentially English – with a slight schoolgirl manner to go with her undoubted sophistication.

The Gurkha campaign has been an undoubted success and let's hope for the right result. But it's time for Joanna to move on to bigger things.

She'd have Barack Obama, Nicolas Sarkozy and the rest of the male world leaders eating out of her hand. Step forward Joanna Lumley – your country needs you!

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

GET IN TOUCH...

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TEXT: **SWALE** then your message to: 81800 (please remember to include your name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the acting editor, **Jon Coates**, on 01303 817048 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourswale.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yoursware, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion



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WIN family tickets for AMF bowling



WHAT better way to enjoy a fun family activity than a night out bowling?

KOS media has teamed up with AMF Bowling to offer readers the chance to win one of ten Family Bowling Tickets valid at any of their Kent centres.

Whether you are organising a treat for the kids or a special night out for you and a group of friends, AMF Bowling has packages to suit everyone.

There are six AMF Bowling centres across Kent in Ashford, Chatham, Gravesend, Maidstone, Margate and Whitstable, all of which offer great family entertainment with fully computerised bowling lanes and the latest in dining and amusements.

Open from 11am weekdays and 10am at weekends, AMF Bowling provides great service and a family-orientated leisure experience with fully automated scoring, Xtreme Bowling, and bumpers and ramps for the kids.

Providing something for everyone, there are TV screens for those wanting to keep up with the latest sports news and music, and bar and diner areas for refreshments.

For those who have worked up an appetite, the centres' adult and children's Bumper & Squeak menus offer a fantastic array of new dishes.

AMF Bowling also plays host to Xtreme Bowling, where ultra-violet lights illuminate the lanes, the balls glow in the dark and an array of lights "dance" in



time with the music – a great way to spice up your evening!

Whatever your requirements, AMF Bowling will help make it an unforgettable experience with our dedicated Lane Hosts, who will ensure everything is hassle free. The centres offer standard two game packages which include shoe hire, however, there are also a number of great deals available, including Unlimited Bowling at selected times.

For more information about AMF Bowling or to book a lane, see www.amfbowling.co.uk.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to AMF Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is June 3, 2009.

Question: How many AMF bowling centres are there in Kent?

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions see www.kent-news.co.uk or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

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TALK TIME

NIKI HYLAND

The Sittingbourne Retired Greyhound Trust worker speaks about the charity's work with ex-racing dogs and how greyhounds make great family pets



What is the Sittingbourne Retired Greyhound Trust?

The trust was set up three years ago by the Sittingbourne Greyhound Track to re-home some of the dogs who have raced there. We accommodate about 20 dogs at a time and as soon as we find a family for one, another comes in. Racing greyhounds' careers don't really start until they are about 15 months and by the time they are around four they have usually picked up an injury, so their careers are very short, even though they live until they are about 15.

What does the trust do for the dogs?

The owners are charged £150 for every greyhound that comes in and then we neuter and vaccinate them, and buy them new collars as well as providing them with any veterinary treatment they need.

Some get homes fairly quickly, but others take longer and caring for a dog in our kennels can be quite expensive. When people collect them we ask for a donation of around £75 to £100, we rely on donations to keep going.

If someone thinks they want to re-home a retired greyhound what should they do?

Make an appointment to come and see the dogs. If there is one you fall in love with we'll try and match you, otherwise we look at what the family have to offer and whether the dog will fit. As long as the new owners have a secure garden there aren't many other rules. Just visit our website to find out more.

• Visit www.rgtsittingbourne.co.uk for more details.

YOUR LETTERS

Savouring spring's flavours



Forget Jerseys, go with our own

I'm totally behind your Food for Kent campaign. Three cheers for it.

But only two and a half for chef Richard Philips' recipe in the May 6 edition of Yourswale.

Why Jersey New Potatoes in the recipe?

There are many new potatoes in this area, and even if they don't quite match the best of the Jerseys, they are as good as, if not better, than some of the so-called Jerseys sold hereabouts.

Let us strive to make even more use of our Food for Kent!!

Chris Berry, from Faversham, by email

Let's Leysdown the true aviation facts

I would take issue with the declaration that 2009 is the anniversary of naval aviation as per your article in Yourswale last week.

The airship that Commander



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourswale.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourswale.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Faversham, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and all the villages in Swale.

We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourswale before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On www.yourswale.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly-acclaimed e-editions.

Sue Eagles mentions was the 'Mayfly', an airship that never flew.

Naval aviation did not happen at Eastchurch until 1910 when the early aviators moved from Leysdown.

The latter is the cradle of aviation in Kent yet not once in your article did you mention the momentous events that took place there in May 1909.

Let us once and for all put aside the myth that Eastchurch

was were flying in the UK began and get back to the basic history of aviation.

Robin Brooks, by email

Time to march to General Election

The recent fiasco over the Gurkhas' undeniable right to stay in this country shows – as if it needed illustrating – the extreme paucity of ideas and imagination in this current Government.

It also showed without any doubt how out of date this current Government is when it comes to gauging public feeling.

It has become increasingly obvious that the MPs on the Labour benches have – in the main – just stopped listening to what people have to say.

This means that it is no longer fit to govern and a General Election is the only way forward.

Terry Knox, by email



Invicta's heart wasn't in it anyway

It does not matter that Invicta FM is becoming Heart. After all, as far as I am concerned Invicta plays the same music in roughly



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the same order as Essex FM and Southern FM.

I think the three stations are all the same after 7pm until 6am and all day Saturday and Sunday.

Therefore I would say Invicta is not a local station in any sense anymore.

I feel Invicta FM went down once it became part of the Capital Group and later the merged G/Cap and now under the news owners Global – which also now owns Heart.

So no change, just go ahead.
Keith Hitchings, from Queenborough, on the Isle of Sheppey, comment at www.yoursware.co.uk



Churchill would have liked UKIP campaign

After reading about the launch of UKIP's Euro election campaign, I want to get the message across that Winston Churchill wanted stronger ties between European Nations to prevent future wars.

What he didn't want was a Federal Union of Europe like the

United States of America, which is what we are heading towards.

He would never have given up power over important issues like immigration or defence to other countries.

Mohammad, from Gillingham, comment posted on web story at www.yoursware.co.uk

Sun is shining on British economy

The news that this is going to be the hottest summer for a few years is one of the first good things I have heard for ages.

With so many people having to take holidays at home I am sure I am not alone in being pleased with this news.

I have cancelled my usual two weeks in the south of France for a trip to Devon.

If the weather is fine I may do the same next year – and if enough others follow suit what a boost for the UK economy.

Joanna Fisher, by email

Don't trade with our earning hours

There is never a good time to mess around with people's ability to earn a living, but during this period of economic hardship it is a particularly daft thing to do.

So it is not a great idea for the Trade Union Congress (TUC) to call

for a limit on the working week of 48 hours.

Don't these socialist dinosaurs realise that in order to make ends meet people want to work as many hours as possible to get in as much cash as they can.

It's all very well for high paid union bosses to try and limit time people can earn in – they don't have to worry about being on the bread-line.

For many people working extra hours is the only way they can get by.

Neil Gorman, from Sittingbourne, by email.

Key player is back where he belongs

Great news that Rob Key is back in the England squad – I was beginning to think he would never get the chance again.

He's a great batsman – but I'm glad he is not there as captain.

Two one day final defeats last season and relegation do not suggest he is one of the best leaders of a cricket team around.

But he is certainly a player who will get stuck in and not give his wicket away cheaply.

Let's hope he can continue on into the summer and give the Aussies plenty of problems.

And let's hope – if that is the case – Kent get an adequate replacement for his undoubted batting skills.

Maria Nelson, by email

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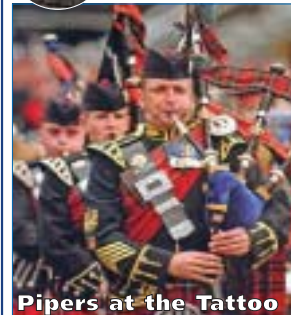
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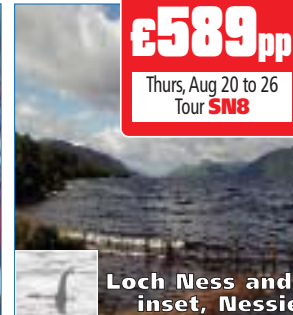
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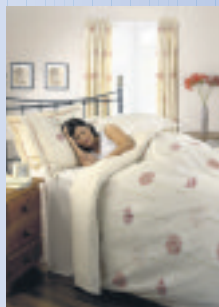
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Dream role is destiny

Craig Chalmers finally plays Joseph as West End musical goes on the road

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Monday, May 25 to Saturday, May 30
Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells



AFTER entertaining millions of television viewers in *Any Dream Will Do*, Craig Chalmers is finally playing his dream role.

Chalmers was among the aspiring actors who competed to win the lead role in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Facing stiff competition, Chalmers made it to the seventh show of the series, winning fans with his impressive performances and the fun edge he brought to Joseph's personality.

He was beaten to the prize by Lee Mead, but he is now delighting audiences all over the country in this touring production of the hugely popular musical.

Based on the Biblical story about a favourite son who is presented with a 'coat of many colours', the show started out as a short school performance in 1968. Over the years it was developed before being presented at the Edinburgh Festival in 1972, though it did not reach Broadway for another 10 years.

The show seemed to receive a new lease on life when an expanded version opened in London in 1991, with former *Neighbours* actor and pop star Jason Donovan in the lead role. Other stars to have played Joseph include television presenter Philip Schofield and Stephen Gately of Boyzone fame.

The captivating story follows the adventures of Joseph, one of 13 sons and a dreamer with the ability to interpret his visions.

When it appears that these dreams signal Joseph's destiny - that he will rule over the others - his brothers become jealous of the amazing coat presented to him by their father.

Together they fake Joseph's death and break the terrible news to their father, while in reality they have sold



him as a slave and he is taken to Egypt to serve the rich Potiphar.

A misunderstanding with Potiphar's wife sees Joseph thrown in jail, but the Pharaoh hears of his ability to interpret dreams and releases him from prison. When Joseph predicts a period of great famine for Egypt, he is put in charge of emergency preparations and becomes the most powerful man in the land.

But the threat of crisis brings his traitorous brothers back into his life, begging for help from the boy they no longer recognise.

With unforgettable songs such as *Any Dream Will Do* and *Close Ev'ry Door To Me*, this is a colourful musical that will entertain the family.

Casting is subject to change and a different actor will play Joseph in the Wednesday matinee and 2pm Saturday performance. To book tickets call 01892 530613/532072 or go to www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



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CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Sunday, May 17
Town centre, Faversham

FAVERSHAM is gearing up for a fantastic event this weekend as the town's annual Classic Car Show returns.

Along with all the favourite old features, there will be new attractions to entertain the crowd this year. For the first time passengers will be able to ride around in a working 1966 Routemaster, the classic red London bus. The vehicle is operated by local company South East Coachworks and will be just one of the many family attractions on offer.

Visitors can expect to see several hundred exhibitors showing off a wide range of models, including Daimler, Rolls Royce, TVR, Cadillac and Ferrari. Modern super



cars will line up with a 20s Model T Ford and there will also be classic motorcycles to admire.

The event is organised by the Faversham Enterprise Partnership, with main sponsorship from Shepherd

Neame, Faversham Town Council and Pharos Insurance. Vehicles will be on display between 10am and 4pm and many town centre shops, cafes and restaurants will be opening for the event.

DHOAD GYPSIES

Monday, May 18
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

ENTER a world of wandering troubadours when the Dhoad Gypsies of Rajasthan visit Canterbury this week.

The Gypsies are preserving a colourful heritage with their vibrant music, colourful costumes and fascinating style of entertainment. Their ancestry lies in the original land of gypsies in north west India and they draw on a history of family members who were wandering troubadours, going from town to town, even entertaining princes and courtiers.

Using vibrant percussion as a backdrop, they create an



enchanting musical atmosphere that transports the audience into a world of Indian folk traditions. See Leela Kumari dancing the gyrations of the Royal Cobra, while fakir Munshi breathes fire, walks a path made of sword blades and rests on a bed of nails. This amazing

show uses traditional Indian folk music and theatre to create an evening audiences will never forget.

The show starts at 7.45pm. The first 200 tickets will be sold at £5, then all tickets cost £10. Book at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or call 01227 769075.



FLIPRON

Saturday, May 16
The Belgian Cafe, Ramsgate

DISCOVER the diverse sound of Flipron as the band tours in support of its new album.

The band's third record, Gravity Calling, is produced by legendary Damned drummer Rat Scabies and has been mixed by David M Allen, producer of some of The Cure's biggest hits.

It boasts a wide range of influences including blues, glam-tinged rock 'n' roll, 60s psychedelia and much more, all woven into Flipron's brand of 'other worldly' pop. Their lyrics have been compared to the work of songwriters like Jacques Brel, David Bowie and Ray Davies, with another critic calling them 'mad as wasps yet brilliant at the same time'.

Songs on the album explore the nature of human

failings, our mission to understand them and the way we can live with them.

Versatile frontman Jesse Budd plays every style of guitar, lap steel, accordion, harmonica and more. He is joined by bassist Greg Sheppard, drummer Mike Chitty and Joe Atkinson on organ, piano and other instruments.

The show starts at 8pm. For more information about the venue visit the website at www.belgiancafe.co.uk

SWALE LEISURE

Twosome draw on 30 years of sound for show

MUSIC lovers will have to be on best behaviour when Jazz Police visit Hernhill.

The jazz/swing duo play vibrant and romantic sounds from the 30s, 40s and 50s along with contemporary tunes. Find out more at www.jazzpolice.co.uk.

The band will be at The Three Horseshoes in Staplestreet at 8.30pm on Tuesday. For more information about the venue call the pub on 01227 750842.

Andy to play 'pretty much anything' at gig

ANDY Mack will be performing his brand of solo acoustic music at a pub in Faversham this weekend.

Also a member of Scary Mary and other bands, Mack plays 'pretty much everything', see www.myspace.com/mastororock.

Mack is at the Anchor Inn in Abbey Street on Sunday. For more about the venue call the pub on 01795 536471.

Three great jazz acts to perform at wine bar

MORE great entertainment is on offer at Deco 5, Whitstable's Art Deco wine bar.

On Thursday, Frances Knight and her trio will give a free concert. Music hall-style female impersonator Ava la Putin will be there on Saturday, tickets cost £5. Then enjoy traditional jazz when ColRose Four perform for free on Tuesday.

Gigs start at 8.30pm. For details call 01227 770079 or visit www.deco5.co.uk.

All folk are invited to an evening of twilight

FANS of early pastoral folk music should not miss The Kim Thompson Band.

They will be at the Orange Street Music Club in Canterbury on Wednesday, May 20, performing songs in the vein of Sandy Denny, Pentangle and Vashti Bunyan. The Twilight Folk Club gig starts at 8pm and entry costs £5.

For details call 01227 464623 or visit www.myspace.com/twilightfolkclub.

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Choose top ten acts for farm festival

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

BRAVE festival chiefs are giving music fans the opportunity to choose ten Kent bands to play at the Lounge on the Farm weekender – in the You Say They Play online competition.

The contest – link below – allows web-users the chance to vote for their favourite acts from across the county.

The top ten will be given slots on the Merton Farm festival's main stage.

While I admire the Lounge organisers' trust in the noble pursuit of people power, voting and democracy, it's important to remember that these same rights saw Steve Brookstein win the X Factor.

Lesson being – the people don't always get it right.

But for now, KOS Media is embracing You Say They Play.

LOTF's Matt Gough said the competition arose from an huge abundance of choice.

"There are now just too many bands of a high quality within Kent that we just don't know who to, or how we could, choose between them anymore," he said.

"So this year, in order to bring the local bands that the ticket-holder wants to see, we are launching a brand-new competition to find the hottest ten bands in Kent to play on our main stage.

"We are anticipating around 200 local bands will register, with the potential voting numbers to reach 10,000.

"This is a sizeable event for the



BANDS ON THE RUN: CWB, above, and Felix Fables, left, are among the acts vying for your vote to play at the LOFT



local music scene within Kent. Local radio station CSR FM has signed up as media partner

and will be featuring tracks from the bands throughout the next six weeks on radio and online.

"In the middle of June the 'Farmers' Fifty' bands with the most votes will be taken into round two of the voting. Then everyone who has bought a ticket for the website, and affiliated members of the festival, will be allowed to vote again for the ten bands that they would like to see on the festival main stage."

Lounge runs from Friday, July 10 to Sunday, July 12.

The line-up already boasts the

likes of Edwyn Collins, The Horrors, Mr Scruff, Billy Childish and The Musicians of the British Empire, The Aliens and Dub Pistols.

For more on You Say They Play visit www.yousaytheyplayloft.co.uk/home.htm

CURRENT TOP TEN

- 1 Hooligan Village
- 2 CWB
- 3 French Crops
- 4 The Sketch
- 5 Midnight Carnival
- 6 The Facades
- 7 Simian Artillery
- 8 The ColourSound Experiment
- 9 Felix Fables
- 10 Neon Skies

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NO MISTAKE: Live @ Zebra Bar rocks out to the sound of My Last Mistake



KITTED OUT: Songstress Lucy Kitt wows the crowd with Laurel Canyon



KENT UNSIGNED GIG CHART

- 1 CWB – 28/5, Beercart Arms, Canterbury
- 2 The Semantic – 30/5, The Star, Gillingham
- 3 Silence Broken – 20/6, Ivy Leaf, Sheerness
- 4 Directions – 24/6, Zebra Bar, Maidstone
- 5 Poppy Wilson – 3/7, Corn Exchange, Maidstone



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WOMEN seeking men

SWEET DEBS

Hopeful, happy, shy girl, 22, loves all the normal stuff about life, searching for a mature guy, 24-30, for loving friendship/happiness. Box 880373

SINGLE DADS WELCOME

Lovely single mum, 23, cuddly and curvy, 5ft6, blonde and blue-eyed, like a drink, animals, reading, cinema, looking for honest, trustworthy and caring male. Box 451249

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football. Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...

Blue eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seeks similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving lady female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

SEEKING MR DARCY

Warm, kind and sincere woman, 31, lots of love and loyalty for the right person, seeking honest genuine man with a good heart. Box 451004

HAPPY SHOPPER!

Easysgoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTm loving, caring white male, 35-47, for long-term, loving relationship. No time-wasters. Box 442412

CARING, CONSIDERATE, HOPEFULLY YOURS

Lovely young lady, 33, 5ft6, cuddly larger build, single mum, seeking kind, caring, honest, genuine man for fun, friendship, hopefully more. Box 450371

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

FIT FOR FUN

Petite, dark-haired girl, 33, 5ft, fit, loves badminton, cinema and more, searching for an active man, with heart and soul. Box 881047

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447955

GAIL OP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding and WLTm honest, reliable man. Box 451311

LIVING IT

Fair-haired female, 35, 5ft, loves the gym, pubs, nights out and fine company, searching for fun bloke, for life, love and laughter. Box 881011

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

PERHAPS PERHAPS

Fun, bubbly, outgoing blonde, late 30s, down-to-earth, with GSOH, searching for tall, genuine fella, for fun, friendship and more? Box 451385

WISHFULLY YOURS

Loving female, 37, 5ft2, brown hair, slim, looking for honest, caring male with GSOH, for friendship, leading to more. Ashford. Box 449915

LOOKING FOR A LOVING CHAP

Ashford-based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring and loving man. I have two kids and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Good looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, 2 kids. Looking for new friends and hopefully someone special. Box 446039

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552

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SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 887983

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!

Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! Likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 35yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

THE SIMPLE THINGS....

I like reading/writing, going out, music. Seeking kind, genuine, honest chap. I'm a 40yr old woman who enjoys the simple things in life. Box 448542

TIME TO LIVE AGAIN

Lovely 40yr old mum, average build, brown hair, blue eyes, 5ft2, bubbly and GSOH...would like friendship and maybe more with the right man. Box 880149

JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434

A FAIRY TALE ENDING

Easy-going blonde animal lover, 41, easy-going and tactile, enjoy eating out, cinema and pubs, looking for a loyal, caring and funny man, 35-45. Box 451079

FANCY A DRINK?

Hi I'm Judith, 40, small, blonde hair, blue eyes, love the sea and water-sports, cinema, animals; WLTm fun-loving guy for friendship and see what happens. Box 448107

WHERE LOVE TAKES US

Attractive woman with a great personality to go with, looking to meet a fit, tall, well-built black male, 35-55, for fun times and hopefully romance. Box 450650

A HEART FULL OF LOVE

Nice looking, 41yr old mixed race female, likes cinema, walks, eating out, bowling, WLTm a genuine white male with GSOH for a fun filled friendship/relationship. Box 450890

CHARM ME

Tall, blonde Russian girl, 42, from St Leonards, searching for single and sincere man, for friendship and more. Box 451019

PROFESSIONAL

Fun bubbly sexy black female, 42, outgoing, positive, fun-loving, seeks charming male to have fun and enjoy life with. Box 451744

ALONG THE SHORE

Recently divorced woman, 43, 5ft3, slim, hard-working, fun-loving, likes life, looking for a really nice and trustworthy guy for a relationship. Hastings Box 451469

A WARM HEART AND GSOH

Lovely bubbly mum, 43, 5ft6, green eyes, dark hair, medium build, loves salsa dancing, new things, bowling, quiet nights in...looking for companion-ship and more. Box 880090

SWING THIS WAY

Sweet girl, 43, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, nurse, searching for active man, for pubs, clubs, good times. Box 451028

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

LOOKING FOR LTR

Single mum, petite, 44, brown hair/eyes, looking to share my life with a nice, man, a Russian man would be great! I like cinema, pubs, music. Box 451373

TLC ON OFFER FOR THE RIGHT PERSON!

Blonde, blue eyed woman, 44, fun-loving, looking for Mr Right. I love going out, nights in, movies, walking, local gigs. WLTm the right man for TLC. Box 880280

COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising; seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693

JOURNEY TOGETHER

Coy, shy, cheeky, loving black lady, 45, enjoys the sunshine, holidays, drinks, films and music, looking for a man to complete me as I will him. Box 451721

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 883800

LOVING IT LARGE

Spiritual 44yr old female, enjoy gardening, cooking and walks on the beach. WLTm a warm, loving and caring male for friendship, maybe a LTR. Box 444803

MAID MARIAN!

Hi, I'm Marian, petite, blonde, green eyes, 46, looking for my Mr Right, to have fun with and enjoy lasting relationship with. Box 447986

FANCY A FILM?

Hi I'm Pam, 47, 5ft11, brown hair, hazel eyes, slimish, divorced, looking for a LTR with a nice and genuine man. No time-wasters please! Heathfield. Box 448626

SOUND GOOD?

Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box 449186

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE?

Hi I'm Mandy, chocolate brown hair, blue eyes, 48, seeking human male (preferably) for nights out, socialising, clubbing, meals, lots of laughs and much more. Box 437489

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easy-going single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things. WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

HERE AND NOW

Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 417100

THE REAL THING

Lively bubbly lady, 52, brown hair blue eyes, 5ft7, medium build, likes travel and walks, documentaries, films, seeking male with GSOH for fun-loving relationship. Box 451255

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, MORE

Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTm similar loving male. Box 443642

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?!

Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448983

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

TAKE MY BREATH AWAY

Young at heart lady, 56, enjoys travel, holiday, swimming, sports, days in/out, seeks solvent, attractive gent of similar age. Folkestone Box 451388

MAKE ME LAUGH, MAKE ME YOURS

Hi there, kind-hearted 57yr old sincere lady, non-smoker, recently separated, seeking kind, honest gent for friendship first and to make me laugh. Box 440637

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, gardens, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE

59yr old young-at-heart, loving woman, I am hoping to meet a kindred spirit who loves animals, going for walks and the romantic side of life. Box 900143

HAPPY AS ME

Fun-to-be-with, happy, contented lady, 60, 5ft4, I enjoy theatre, dining out and having friends round for a meal, gardening and pets. Box 882812

ONLY LOVE

Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, GSOH, enjoys travel, gardening etc. Looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 883791

SOMEONE TO SHARE LIFE WITH

Attractive retired lady, 63, loves swimming and cycling, cinema, eating out...seeks company with a great SOH, young-minded, to enjoy anything that happens. Box 451579

START AGAIN

I would like to meet a kind gentleman. I'm a widowed woman, 63yrs young, hoping to find someone to share life with. Box 879987

SOMEBODY TO LAUGH WITH...

Loving lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 448382

PUT SPARK INTO LIFE

Caring slim female, 64, 5ft2, like meals out, cinema, walks, gardening and golf, looking for a kind and loving companion, 60-68. Box 450581

Women seeking women

IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS

I'm a 29yr old female, looking for new friends and maybe that special girl...let's have a meal and a drink and see what happens! Box 448722

FUN AND MAYBE MORE

Hi I'm 37, new to town and would love to meet some genuine companions to socialise with and go out and have some fun. Box 880564

FRIENDSHIP, HOPEFULLY MORE

Feminine woman, easysgoing, caring, 45, long brown hair, blue eyes. I love music, eating out, reading/writing, drives, weekends away. WLTm boyish female. Box 448246

TRUSTWORTHY

Margate man, 37, 6ft3, dark hair, nice big build, I work in residential care which I love. I'm down-to-earth, kind, tactile, with a GSOH. Box 423437

FULL MARKS

Hi I'm Andrew, 38, 6ft3, dark hair, blue eyes, hardworking guy, friendly, tactile & outgoing, likes enjoying life, WLTm easysgoing female for friendship/relationship. Box 443488

PUT THAT SPARK BACK INTO MY LIFE

Virgo male, 40, 5ft7, stocky build, kind, loving, fine guy, enjoys the cinema, meals out, walks on beaches, WLTm like-minded person to be my girl. Box 446211

LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE!

Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 450317

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Art-loving 40yr old, 5ft9, brown hair/eyes, into motorbikes and weight-lifting, looking for a trustworthy female for friendship to start off with, who you know? Box 448928

FRIENDS FIRST

Caring, understanding chap, 40, 5ft7, blue eyes/blond hair, slim/average build. I'm easysgoing and relaxed and like travel, music, film, restaurants, theatre, days out, badminton. Box 451361

PUT THE SPICE BACK IN!

Family orientated guy, 41, separated, looking to find a lady who wants the fun and company of a partner back into their life. Box 884085

DO YOU FEEL THE SAME?

Hi ya, I'm Ian, 40, 5ft10, medium build, likes a quiet life style, looking for someone who can love/accept me for who I am. Box 450283

BY THE BOOK

Attractive mixed race male, 42, 5'10", likes chatting and music. Looking for an attractive & romantic female in the Swale or Medway areas for relationship. Box 880076

GOT A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR?

Malcolm, 43, dark-haired, 5ft10, spent a long time on the shelf so looking for chals, friendship and maybe more with a film and music fan. Box 451561

IN LOVE

Single 50s male looking for lady for loving friendship. I'm honest, sincere, genuine and love a laugh, hoping for lasting romance. Box 451188

LONG-TERM THING

Hi, I'm Ian, caring, romantic, loyal guy, 44, 5ft11, slim/medium, fair hair/blue eyes. GSOH, looking for a woman, 30-45, with similar nature. East Sussex. Box 451334

WITTY

Active, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things, seeks homely warm, trusting female. Box 408508

BIG DEAL IN DEAL

Warm, tactile male, 42, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, seeks like minded female,

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SWALE SHOPPING

Bite into fresh, seasonal goodies at the market

SHOPPERS can find delicious produce and beautiful crafts at The Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells this weekend.

On Saturday there will be fresh seasonal foods on offer from local producers at the farmers' market, while on Sunday artisans will be displaying original crafts for sale at the outdoor craft market.

Both events will take place in the Upper Pantiles, from 10am to 4pm. For more details about upcoming events see www.thepantilesonline.co.uk.

Seriously Good chef to sign copies of his book

CELEBRITY chef Phil Vickery will be signing copies of his new cookery book at Bluewater next week.

The Ready Steady Cook and This Morning star was born in Folkestone and has won Michelin stars for the quality of his food. He will be signing copies of Seriously Good! Gluten-Free Cooking at Waterstone's from 6pm on Thursday, May 21.

The book is published by Kyle Cathie this Thursday, priced at £19.99.

Enjoy shopping on the seas with ferry offers

SET sail for some great deals with P&O Ferries' recession-beating offers.

This month Jacob's Creek Shiraz Rosé, Semillon Chardonnay and Shiraz Cabernet are £15 for six bottles on services to France, Belgium, Holland and Spain.

Dover to Calais fares are offered from £10 for a non-landing 'Car Park Shopper' service. Alternatively, a day trip ticket for a car and passengers costs from £25.

For more information call 08716 646464 or visit www.poferries.com.

You can even look good when you're camping

PREPARE for the festival season by stocking up on essential beauty products from Barry M, Schwarzkopf and Clynol.

Look great even in the rain with Barry M's Extreme Black Waterproof Mascara (£5.95) and Intense Eyeliner Pens (£3.95), in six shades.

Liven up unwashed hair with Schwarzkopf Professional OSiS Dust (£10.45) and Clynol's Play With Me Powder Punch (£10.60). Call 01296 314000 for your nearest stockist.

Keeping down the cost of being a new parent

THERE is still time to stock up on parenting essentials with Asda's special baby and toddler event this week.

Until Sunday, parents can buy two four-packs of Pampers Baby Wipes for £9 and two Pampers Active Fit and Easy Up Jumbo Packs for £20. Shoppers can also buy a Graco Junior Car Seat, a Graco Teatime Highchair and a Hauck Sport and Recover Stroller, all priced just £25.

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

IS ANYBODY THERE? (12A)



Ten-year-old Edward lives in a sleepy retirement home run by his parents. His solitude is interrupted with the arrival of Clarence (Michael Caine), a retired magician who doesn't suffer children gladly.

GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (12A)



Connor Mead (Matthew McConaughey) has a reckless attitude towards women. Then he sees the ghost of Uncle Wayne (Michael Douglas) who informs him he will be visited by three spirits.

HANNAH MONTANA - THE MOVIE (U)



Dragged back to her home town in Tennessee by her father, can Miley Stewart (Miley Cyrus) juggle her twin identities and avoid the paparazzi at a benefit concert fronted by Hannah Montana?

Screen beauty Michelle aims to age gracefully

BY SHEREEN LOW

HOLLYWOOD is known for tossing aside older actresses faster than you can say 'Lights, camera, action'. But for Michelle Pfeiffer, who turned 51 last month, the roles continue to come in.

"I started getting asked how it feels to age in Hollywood when I was 35. I think it's changing. There are more actresses now who have crossed that threshold," says Michelle.

Most recently, she has played a witch-queen in *Stardust*, a singing villainous mother in *Hairspray* and an ageing French courtesan romantically involved with a younger man (played by Rupert Friend) in *Chéri*, released last weekend.

"This is my third movie doing that recently, but it's always welcome," smiles Michelle.

"The older I get, the younger my leading men get, which is interesting because it was the opposite when I was younger."

In real life, Michelle is happily married to TV writer and producer David E Kelley (Ally McBeal, Boston Legal) and the couple have two children – adopted 16-year-old daughter Claudia and 14-year-old biological son John.

The actress took a four-year hiatus in 2003 to spend more time with her family when they moved away from Los Angeles.

"It got harder finding projects that didn't entail me leaving home for long periods of time during the school year, so we moved," she explains.

"It was a big transition, much bigger than I anticipated – actually quite overwhelming."

"The move kept me occupied and distracted from my work. After we settled in, I realised how long it had been and I started to miss it."



AGE PERFECT: Michelle Pfeiffer as Lea de Lonval in *Chéri*

"I decided to come back to work and *Hairspray* was there, *Stardust* was there. It's been really fun and I've been lucky to have the opportunities I've had."

The star of films such as *The Fabulous Baker Boys*, *Dangerous Minds* and *Batman Returns*, where she played Catwoman, looks years younger than her age and isn't keen on cosmetic surgery to keep the wrinkles at bay.

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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"Although the older you get, the harder it is to say never. It's easy to say that when you're 25," she says.

"I don't really object, I don't really care about plastic surgery one way or another. I suppose I object to bad plastic surgery, and too much of it is not a good thing."

Instead, she tries to maintain a healthy diet, although it's difficult to picture Michelle, who looks very slim in an elegant black dress and black Christian Louboutin heels, indulging in junk food.

Michelle's career spans nearly four decades and she has no plans to take it easy just yet.

"I've been working since I was 14, and I loved working from the moment I had my first job. I don't think I'll ever retire."

CHÉRI
Certificate 15

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- **Lesbian Vampire Killers 15**
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- **Student Film Night 18**
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- **In the City of Sylvia** (En la ciudad de Sylvia) PG
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YOUR TV REVIEW



Picture: KEN MCKAY

HOT STEPPERS: Diversity seem to be a good bet for winning popular show Britain's Got Talent

■ BY TOM BETTS

■ SNOG MARRY AVOID
BBC Three, 12.05am, Thursday
BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT
ITV1, 8.20pm, Saturday

IF there's a better reason to leave Britain this very instant than BBC Three's lamentable show Snog Marry Avoid, then I have yet to discover it.

Presented by Jenny Frost, formerly of Atomic Kitten, and a computer called POD, this is the kind of nonsense that makes you wonder why we pay our TV licence.

Each time we're faced with a selection of misfits who dress in an extreme, or inappropriate, manner.

Be that a fake tan-obsessed wannabe page three model, the cyber goth who "just wants to be different", or the recent self-declared "only male Barbie in Scotland" so orange he looked like he was hooked up to an intravenous drip filled with Tango...

The computer then gives them a make-under, not a make-over, to look more normal and presentable.

The results are always for the better, not that it seems to matter as the clothes and look are swept away by the subject who more often than not

decides it was better to go clubbing in a leotard with their bits hanging out.

This is often on as I drift off to sleep and has given me many nightmares. Perhaps time to stop on both my part and the BBC's.

I think it's fair to say the latest series of Britain's Got Talent has been a belter thus far.

Each week seems to foist a new star into the public eye.

Whether it's been the big story of Susan Boyle (now over 53 million YouTube hits for the original clip, and counting) or singing pizza delivery man Jamie Pugh, we have had a clutch of memorable TV moments.

The show has proved to be a huge draw once again and must now be a bigger asset to ITV than The X Factor because so many people seem to be able to relate to it.

It encapsulates the dreams of the elderly as well as the young and has become a genuine phenomenon.

For my money, dance act Diversity look like a good bet to go all the way this year. Their audition was spectacular and the guy who leads the troupe seems to already have an army of female fans who think he's swell, and he may well be.

Show six is on Saturday night – what new treats await?

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

THE demands of your social position are starting to wear on you. If you're the breadwinner, it may feel like you can never take a break for fear of financial collapse. Whatever your station in life, it's time to break out of your box. There's more to you than meets the eye.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

YOUR relationship status is giving you lots of angst. If you have a lover, your union isn't living up to your expectations. Perhaps one of you is outshining the other. An honest discussion is probably in order. If you are single, it may be because you've set your sights too high.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOU'RE tired of having to watch over a responsible adult. It's time to cut the apron strings, even at the risk of looking cruel. Enabling a romantic partner's neurosis is especially dangerous. Go to as many interviews as possible. You can talk your way into a prestigious company.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOUR moods are a roller-coaster ride, and no wonder. Someone close to your heart keeps sending conflicting signals. One minute they're fine, the next they're on the brink of collapse. They are playing you like a violin. Stop making yourself constantly available to their whims.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

EVERY time you hear the news, you go into a downward spiral. At times like these, it's important to remember you're getting only one side of the story. There is plenty of kindness in the world; it's just that it never makes the headlines. Expressing yourself clearly will help you avoid trouble.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

UNHEALTHY habits have a way of catching up on you. It may be time to revise your diet or step up your exercise regimen. By examining your motivations to neglect your physical health, you could turn a corner. Beware of pretending to know more than you do.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

YOUR overactive mind is causing you to lose sleep. There's no point overanalysing an emotional situation, you just have to walk away. The person is not prepared to find a workable solution. If you're suffering from heartache, this would be an ideal time to take a long distance trip.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

IT FEELS like your brain is on time delay. Instead of forcing yourself to pick up the pace, stop and take some emotional inventory. Have you been neglecting yourself in some way? If you have an office job, get into the habit of a walk on your lunch hour, or a run before or after work.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

ACCUMULATING more debt is causing you to go into emotional free fall. You've got to start questioning why you're on a shopping spree. Linking your self worth to your economic health is a drastic mistake. Volunteering for a good cause can cause your confidence to come soaring back.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

IT feels like everybody is tugging on your sleeve, leaving you no time for fun. You simply have no time to spare. Maybe it's because you've overextended. Are you performing these duties out of necessity, or are you getting some sick satisfaction from being a martyr?

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

GOING against your beliefs could land you in trouble. Sure, it's fun going along with a wild person's suggestions, but at the end of the day, you can't believe all the destruction you've caused. Be especially careful about getting romantically involved with somebody who has a partner.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOUR social life is getting busy, prompting you to wonder when you'll find any down time. The answer is never unless you make some changes. Stop accepting every invitation that comes your way. Above all, schedule solitary evenings so you can recharge your batteries.

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No87

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

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MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

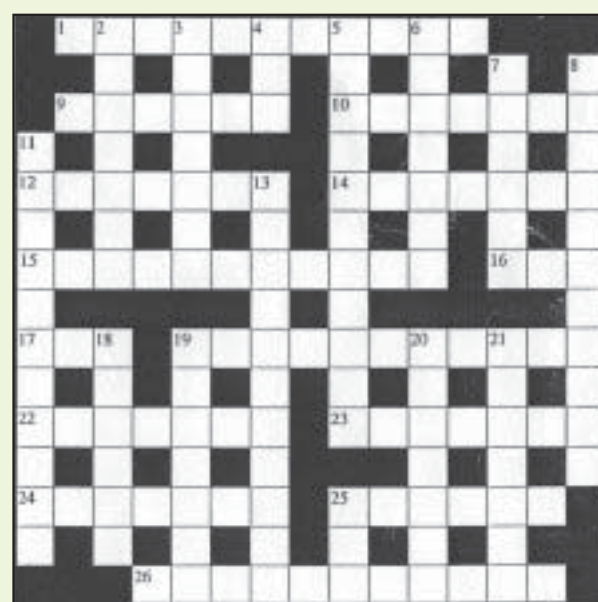
ACROSS

- 1 Ballet Daisy performed during French national holiday (8,3)
- 9 I'm right in agreement, he was a hunter (6)
- 10 Dateless dialogue rewritten for funeral orations (7)
- 12 Be glad about said lady (7)
- 14 Rocky height by landing-place in seaside resort (7)
- 15 An airy exposure! (11)
- 16 President somewhat warlike (3)
- 17 Mesh at one time included (3)
- 19 Target rebel suffering, too bad (11)
- 22 One who perspires wearing it (7)
- 23 A medical man involved in final thrash (7)
- 24 Distress at cliff disaster (7)
- 25 South American nut (6)
- 26 May with pleasure include luminosity initially, that is what this gives

DOWN

- 2 An offer lady shortly made for African port (7)
- 3 Public transport limitations (7)
- 4 Young man of 50 now (3)
- 5 Potentially shocking slippery customer (8,3)
- 6 Splashed oil near wing-flap (7)
- 7 Animal a US soldier catches out (6)
- 8 Myra moved keyboard instrument onto old boat (4,7)
- 11 Where motorist is found in a commanding position (7,4)
- 13 Said too much it was not true (11)
- 18 Start before green (3,3)
- 19 Greek wine retains sparkle (7)
- 20 Timothy gets contagious fear mostly from drums (7)
- 21 Churlish expecting fall in Stock Market prices (7)
- 25 Extra greeting? Not half perhaps (3)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Something of highest excellence (11)
- 9 Piazza (6)
- 10 Impossibly ideal (7)
- 12 Speaking (7)
- 14 Circus swing (7)
- 15 Memory (11)
- 16 Garden tool (3)
- 17 Donkey (3)
- 19 Jammed with people (11)
- 22 Improve a photo perhaps (5,2)
- 23 Chorus (7)
- 24 Knotty (7)
- 25 Excite (4,2)
- 26 Subediting (US) (11)

DOWN

- 2 ___ mass (7)
- 3 Skull (7)
- 4 Devon river (3)
- 5 Low-set two-wheeler (8-3)
- 6 Cholera (anag.) (7)
- 7 Advanced technology (2-4)
- 8 Free from control (11)
- 11 Eternal (11)
- 13 Social gathering outdoors (6,5)
- 18 Robust (6)
- 19 Shakespearean character (7)
- 20 Tendered (7)
- 21 Coerce (7)
- 25 Golf-peg (3)

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No86

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC SOLUTION No86

ACROSS: 1 Beforehand 6 Quid 9 Recap 10 Doze 11 Knot 13 Thumbnail sketch 14 Archival 16 Ingrid 18 Creche 19 Polyglot 22 Shrinking violet 24 Lynx 25 Thee 26 Padua 27 Drey 28 Short-range. DOWN: 1 Biretta 2 Fichu 3 Republishing 4 Hideaway 5 Nozzle 7 Unnatural 8 Ditched 12 Skinny-dipper 15 Clearance 17 Jongleur 18 Castled 20 Titrate 21 Eighth 23 Laden.

QUICK SOLUTION No87

21 Dragon 25 Tee. 18 Sturdy 19 Offhanded 20 Offered Independent 11 Everlasting 13 Garden party Exe 5 Jeannine-car 6 Chorale 7 Hi-tech 8 reading. DOWN: 2 Requiem 3 Cranium 4 Refrain 14 Nodular 25 Turn on 26 Copy. 17 Ass 19 Overcrowded 21 Touch up 23 Ho 12 Voicing 14 Trapeze 15 Remembrance 16 17 6 8 9 4 5 3 2

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website



BY LIAM CREEDON

OFF the north-east tip of Scotland, Shetland raises hairs on the neck of any seasoned birdwatcher.

These barren spits of land are hemmed in by the raging North Sea and left almost treeless by harsh Arctic winds. But during spring and autumn, birds rarely seen in mainland Britain can turn up on Shetland.

Made up from some 100 islands, the Shetland archipelago stretches 70 miles towards the Arctic. It is quicker to fly from London to Milan than to Sumburgh, the islands' tiny airport.

The Scandinavian influence is profound, from the residents' sing-song accents to the local

Welcome to a twitcher's paradise

place names. Yell, Unst, Gutcher, Skaw and Noss sound more like the mating noises of amorous Vikings than islands or towns.

The capital, Lerwick, serves the vital fish and oil industries that dominate Shetland life.

In Lerwick's harbour we spied one reason why Shetland is renowned as a wildlife paradise. Bobbing alongside fishing boats was a pair of black guillemots – rare on the mainland but ten-a-penny on Shetland.

The land is magically free of the noise that dominates the mainland, with the fluting calls

of moorland birds and the mournful wailing of curlews creating a constant, tuneful backdrop.

After sampling locally-caught fish at haunted Busta House Hotel we headed by boat for Unst at Shetland's northern tip to Muckle Flugga – the UK's most northerly lighthouse.

The isolated rocky coast is a magnet for seabirds. Puffins whizzed past our tiny boat, while black guillemots, known locally as tysties, and razorbills clattered into the sea.

Back on dry land, we walked to the edge of the sea-cliffs on the Hermaness nature reserve

for a different perspective on Shetland's nesting seabirds.

The great skua is known to birders across the UK by its Shetland name – bonxie – the ASBO kid of the bird world.

We tried to work out the safe distance to stand to watch a female on her nest.

In seconds she turned a coal-black eye on us, screamed and launched off the ground. Suddenly the air was a rush of talons, feathers and the screams of terrified tourists.

We retreated to the cliff-edge to watch the more friendly puffins feeding their young.

"Ladies and gentlemen, killer whales!" said our guide, Brydon Thomason, drawing our attention to the vast, flat expanse of the North Sea beyond the cliff-edge.

Looking through Brydon's telescope, I could see about nine killer whales dipping and shying into the waves.

The sight was electrifying – to witness huge predators in their element was extraordinary, typifying what a trip to Shetland is all about.

We retreated to sample more local seafood, swilled down with Shetland beer from the Valhalla Brewery on Unst.

Tourism on Shetland feels like an afterthought, with a lack of quality restaurants and accommodation, but the incredible natural spectacle on offer makes this a world-class tourist destination in its own right.

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FACT FILE: SHETLAND



Travel details

The Shetland Isles have a population of around 22,000. Located more than 200 miles off the north-east coast of Scotland, Shetland is closer to the Faroe Islands and is part of the division between the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

Liam Creedon flew with Atlantic Airways, which operates a twice-weekly summer service (Friday and Monday) to Sumburgh from Stansted. Return fares this year started at £167.

He stayed at Busta House Hotel, in Brae – a waterside hotel dating back to 1588 – the former RAF radar station Saxa Vord and Bressay Lighthouse.

Reservations: Busta House Hotel (0180 652 2506 and www.bustahouse.com); Saxa Vord Resort (0195 771 1711 and www.saxavord.com).

Destination information: Visit Shetland on 0870 199 9440 and www.visitshetland.com

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PROPERTY NEWS

Who's online checking the cost of your home?

DESPITE tumbling house values, people across the UK are obsessed by the cost of real estate, according to a recent survey. And the ready availability of property news across the internet is one of the ways people fuel their obsession.

Almost seven in 10 look at property online, even when they are not in the market to move house, the study found.

The poll also revealed 12 per cent of homeowners confessed they used the internet to check the value of property belonging to friends and neighbours.

On average, five per cent said they wanted to know what colleagues' homes were worth, too.

Those aged 25 to 34 were the most fixated on property prices, with eight in ten regularly looking at homes for sale even if they had no intention to buy.

They were also the nosiest age group, with more than one in six (17 per cent) checking the price of friends' homes and one in eight (13 per cent) investigating colleagues' properties.

In this age group, 63 per cent said they looked out of curiosity, while 29 per cent wanted to gauge a good time to move.

The survey of 1,399 subjects by an independent research company found on average people spent 55 minutes per month looking online at property.

The poll also found one in 10 logged on to see how their house was doing in investment terms.

HCA initiative aims to get investors onboard

THE Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has set up a new initiative to encourage investors such as pension funds into the private rented sector.

The Private Rented Sector Initiative (PRSI) aims to provide an opportunity for low-risk investment.

It will target unsourced investors, such as overseas investors and pension funds, in a bid to "kick-start stalled schemes and lead to a significant increase in high-quality new homes for rent".

Sir Bob Kerslake, chief executive of the agency, said: "To date, achieving scale has been one of the main barriers to attracting institutional investors into the housing sector.

"We believe there is an opportunity now for the HCA to work with developers and housebuilders to offer a pipeline of projects for the PRSI, which could eventually result in a positive outcome for all stakeholders."



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Homes more affordable for UK first-time buyers



ON THE UP: Falling house prices mean first-time buyers now have a good chance of getting on the property ladder

■ BY NICK AMES

HOME affordability for first-time buyers – known as FTBs – has improved "substantially" since 2007, according to the Halifax review of the market.

This takes into account the prospects of people who are looking to join the first rung of the housing ladder in the next month or so.

The survey was released earlier this month and is seen as a key barometer of how the market is looking.

It examined the average earnings and the average cost of first-time homes in areas, dividing them up by local authority.

It found that the number of areas where the average price paid by an FTB was affordable increased to 21 per cent.

This compared with just six per cent in the third quarter of 2007.

Therefore the number of local authorities in the UK where housing was affordable to FTBs more than trebled in the last 18 months, with the house-price-to-earnings ratio now lower than it has been for six years, down 26 per cent since the summer of 2007.

The proportion of disposable income used to pay for a mortgage also decreased, which the Halifax attributed to falling house prices teamed with low interest rates.

Improvement

Martin Ellis, housing economist at Halifax, said: "There has been a marked improvement in housing affordability for potential first-time buyers in many parts of the UK over the past 18 months.

"This trend continued in the first three months of 2009. The significant reductions in house prices, relative to average earnings, has resulted largely from the decline in house prices since the autumn of 2007.

"As a result, housing is at its most affordable, on this key measure, for more than six years."

Despite the improvement in affordability, the number of FTBs is still at a very low level, according to the survey.

And although things are set to get better, according to analysts who have studied the recent trends, this may not be for some time.

Mr Ellis added: "Conditions in the housing market are likely to be tough during the rest of 2009 despite improvements in affordability.

"Increasing unemployment, low consumer confidence and the effects of the continuing dislocation of the financial markets on the availability of mortgage finance are all likely to exert downward pressure on the market.

"House prices are expected to decline again in 2009. Prospective first-time buyers should factor the likelihood of further house price falls into their calculations when deciding whether or not to buy."

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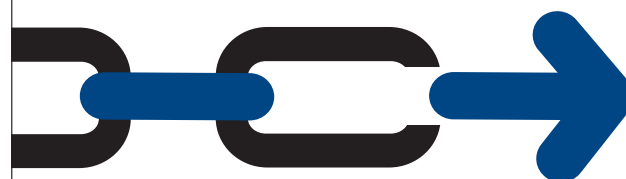


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- Semi Detached House
- Popular Cul De Sac
 Location
- 3 Bedrooms

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Bishopstone

- Impressive detached home 3/4 bedrooms.
- Fantastic views across farmland and out to sea!
- "Shaker style" fitted kitchen/diner.

.....£339,500



Broomfield

- Huge Accommodation
- 4 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms

.....£335,000



Herne Bay

- 5 bed detached house
- Many original features
- Popular Central location

.....OIEO £315,000



Bullockstone

- Desirable cul de sac location
- 4 bed detached house.
- Double glazed conservatory to the rear

.....£299,995



- 3 bed detached house
- Walking distance to Herne Bay seafront
- Double glazed conservatory

.....£279,995



Herne Bay

- Fantastic large garden in excess of 100ft.
- 4 Bedrooms with an en-suite.
- Rear Double Storey Extension

.....£249,995



Herne Bay

- 5 Huge Bedrooms
- Near to the sea
- Family sized kitchen

.....£240,000



Beltinge

- 3 bedrooms
- Great size accommodation
- Chain free sale

.....£219,995



Herne Bay

- 3 double bed chalet bungalow.
- Less than 5 Years old.
- Close to schools and seafront.

.....£215,000



- 27ft Lounge
- Lovely Gardens
- 2 Double bedrooms

.....£209,995



Beltinge

- 3 bed semi detached house
- Extended garage .
- Possible no chain ahead.

.....£179,995



Herne Bay

- 3 bedrooms
- Good sized lounge
- Garage

.....£162,995



- 1 Bedroom warden assisted Flat
- Town centre location
- Lift and communal facilities

.....£99,995



Bishopstone

- 2 bedrooms
- Lovely secluded garden
- Potential for further accommodation

.....£159,995



Herne Bay

- 3 bedrooms, Rear courtyard garden
- Off street parking
- Pets considered

.....£750 PCM



Herne Bay

- Warden Assisted flat, 1 bedroom
- Over 55s only
- Available immediately

.....£495 PCM



Herne Bay

- 1/2 Beds
- Handy Location, close to Station
- Well maintained

.....£99,995



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MOTORS NEWS



Motoring icon plans a big 50th birthday party

MINI fans globally are celebrating the motoring icon's 50th birthday.

The very first car, a Mini Minor in Old English White, is on display at the original plant in Cowley, Oxford – home to the modern day Mini re-created by BMW. Cowley produced Minis from 1959 to 1968, before production of the original switched to Longbridge, Birmingham.

There will also be a birthday festival at the Silverstone race circuit from May 22-24, featuring a line-up of bands and other entertainment.



Big savings to be made with scrap happy deals

VAUXHALL – one the UK motor market's big hitters – has waded into the battle for scrappage deals.

On top of the Government-backed £2,000 grant available to buyers eligible to scrap their old car in exchange for a new one, Vauxhall is offering extra cash/cash-backs and zero per cent finance in certain cases. A British-built Astra Life 1.4 hatchback, for instance qualifies for a total saving of £5,870, while the sought after Corsa (pictured) supermini range qualifies for nought per cent finance for three years.



Citroën's surefooted recession-buster MPV

FOR motorists wrong-footed by recession, Citroën says it offers a "surefooted response" – the Nemo Multispace.

This capacious 60+mpg, sub £10,000 family recession-buster MPV emits just 119g/km in CO2 emissions and comes with a further sweetener: would-be customers can part exchange their pre-2000 registered car through Citroën's £2,000 'Scrappage Incentive' and drive away a new Nemo for just £7,995. There is just the choice of a 1.4-litre petrol or diesel engine and one generous trim level.



OUT ON ITS OWN: It's wrong to pitch the Epica against the more upmarket Vauxhall Insignia, but rather should be judged against rivals such as the Dodge Avenger and Kia Magentis

Chevy's epic proportions hide some epic surprises

CHEVY'S family car contender matches its name – the Epica has epic proportions and surprises in equal measure.

At first glance it seems a ponderous and clumsily finished 'Yank Tank', but closer inspection shows it is better than that and, like all Chevys for the UK, comes from Korea.

The big surprise is handling. The Epica is some way from the classic big Yank 'sedan' that corners like a spongy bedstead. It can still deliver the comfort preferred by the US market, but makes a decent fist of country lanes even if it will never be a sportster.

In any case, with list prices from just above £14,000 – and local dealers have new cars available for less than 11 – it is wrong to pitch the Chevy against the state-of-the-art Ford Mondeo or the Epica's more upmarket General Motors' stablemate, the Vauxhall Insignia.

Instead, it should be judged and voted tops against other US and Korean rivals such as the Chrysler Sebring and Dodge Avenger and the Kia Magentis and Hyundai Sonata.

Don't bother with the six-cylinder 2.0-litre

ROAD TEST CHEVROLET EPICA

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

petrol entry option though – most buyers go for the four-pot 2.0-litre diesel tested here.

It is smooth with the low and mid-range punch needed for this big wagon and yet impressively economical, making the car a favourite with taxi operators and the caravan set, rather than image-conscious private buyers and company car executives.

Cabin quality is better than small Chevys on the market and even quite luxurious, with a functional layout. Leather seats on our flagship LT model felt smart and comfortable with rear passengers getting acres of space and a sizeable armrest to lounge against. It is a bit like taking your sofa on the road and only seems to be lacking a drink cabinet.

The seat backs also flop forward to allow long items to be carried, though the boot itself is immense

In Chevy fashion, standard kit is generous: junior LS trim brings air con, cruise control, electric windows all round, alloys, leather covered steering wheel, powered mirrors and an MP3 sound input. My main complaint was the slightly vague five-speed manual gearbox on the diesel test car – the six-speed auto 'box could be the better buy.



**SEE MOTORSTV FOR
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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

CONVERTIBLES

OPEN-TOP motors are a good way to dispel the gloom of recession and prices have eased too as some hard-pressed buyers seek to liquidate rolling assets. That extends even to the growing breed of folding hardtop or 'coupé convertible' (CC) models that offer better looks and security. This week's used buys feature two of this type, but also check out the Mazda MX-5, available in classic ragtop or CC format and the car that did more than any other to make Britain a top market for convertibles – despite the weather.

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MAZDA MX-5



NOW into its third generation, the original MX-5 was inspired by classic British Triumph, MG and Lotus sports cars and given Japanese reliability. Sometimes criticised for a lack of outright power, the MX-5 is more famous for its beautifully balanced handling. Models hold their value well, although an influx of 'Eunos' used imports from Japan drove down prices for the Lotus-lookalike MkI and the latest MkIII offers beefier looks and the most creature comforts, if you can stretch the budget.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★☆☆
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL ASTRA



VAUXHALL surprised everybody with the success of the original Astra convertible and followed up with the brilliant Astra TwinTop – the name inspired by the electronic folding metal roof. Both four-seaters are good looking with roof up or down and the TwinTop is a particularly good achievement when so many of its coupé convertible rivals look ungainly or 'boot heavy'. As with many 'chopped' hatchback convertibles, there is some body flex on both models, but don't let this break a deal.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★☆☆
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

PEUGEOT 206CC



MERCEDES pioneered new generation folding metal roof convertibles with the SLK in the 1990s, but Peugeot brought the type to the mass market with the big-selling and plentiful 206CC. Based on the French marque's 206 hatchback and biggest seller ever, the 206CC even had two seats in the back although it should never be considered anything more than a 2+2. While relatively affordable, there have also been reliability problems with the temperamental roof mechanism.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: urban 12.7 (22.3) - 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 18.6 (15.2) - 62.8 (4.5), CO₂ Emissions 119 - 364 g/km.

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Either attend the open afternoons or apply now - email: nikki.pipe@regentgroup.co.uk or Tel: 01322 626249



Benefit Officer x 3

37 hours

£14,982 - £22,494 pa

We currently have vacancies for one permanent and two temporary Benefit Officers. The temporary posts will be offered as one year contracts.

Based at Sittingbourne, but sometimes working at one of our three district offices in Sittingbourne, Faversham and Sheerness, the main responsibilities of this role will be to check, calculate and maintain Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit claims and give face to face or telephone advice to the public on all matters relating to those benefits and also Council Tax account issues.

It is essential that you are either educated to GCSE standard at grade C including Maths and English, or an equivalent qualification such as NVQ level 2 in a subject area such as Business and Finance or Administration, or that you have at least 2 years' experience in a related area of work such as a customer service or financial administration environment, preferably within Housing Benefit or other Social Security Benefit role.

You must be able to show good computer keyboard skills and knowledge of Microsoft Office packages would be an advantage.

We are looking for people who have good communication and team working skills and the ability to learn quickly. A comprehensive training programme will be provided to develop your skills and knowledge.

The starting salary will be dependent upon qualifications and experience.

We welcome applications for flexible working arrangements.

In addition to salary, we can offer you a generous annual leave allowance, paid bank holidays, flexi time and the Local Government final salary pension scheme.

For further information contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone Sittingbourne (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting reference number 477CS1.

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: <http://jobs.swale.gov.uk>

Closing date: 26 May 2009
Interviews: w/c 8 June 2009



Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for...

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.

Midway Scale, Grade D2

£14,891 - £18,937 (pay award pending) + SEN Allowance (£1,162)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying): Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP (01634 338224)

Please note CV's will not be accepted. Closing date: 3.6.2009

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Learning Support Assistant Required

This position is currently temporary with a possible permanent placement for September.

Hythe House Education is a small independent secondary school based in Sheerness Kent. The pupils range in ability and can show challenging behaviour.

We are seeking an individual who can demonstrate enthusiasm and resourcefulness working within a small established staff team. The ideal candidate will demonstrate a firm but fair approach and be able to contribute to the existing good practices of the school.

The yearly salary for the position is £10,000 for term time only, hours are 8.45 - 3.15 per day.

For an application pack or further details please contact: Hythe House Education (01795) 581006 Or E-Mail: robertduffy@hythehousesupport.co.uk



Resident Involvement Manager

Based in Sevenoaks and Swanley. Job Ref: KOS/WKE020

Spot Salary
£28,520 pa
37 hours a week

West Kent Extra (WKE) is a thriving community development charity based in Sevenoaks and working with communities in west Kent and beyond. We are a subsidiary of West Kent Housing Association, one of the UK's leading housing providers.

The national agenda on resident involvement is changing, with the formation of the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) and a move towards resident-led self-regulation.

You will be an excellent communicator able to connect with a range of tenants, staff and partner agencies to promote the value of resident involvement.

We are looking for someone who understands these changes and will work with our staff and tenants to ensure we make positive changes to the way we work.

You should be able to work well on your own initiative, contribute to an existing team and be prepared to go the extra mile to ensure customer satisfaction.

We have a proud tradition of resident involvement work and this is a great opportunity for you to join an established and successful housing association, as part of our Operational Management Team.

You will need to have a driving licence and access to a vehicle for business use. The post includes an Essential Car Users Allowance and is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

You should have a passion for working with tenants and customers and the drive and commitment to ensure they are able to influence and engage with us, in a positive and productive way.

For more information and to download an application pack, please visit our website or call Colleen Coode on 01732 749420.

Closing date: **18 May 2009**

Interview date: **28 May 2009**

West Kent Housing Association aims to provide excellent customer service, equality and opportunity for all we house and employ

View our current vacancies online at www.westkent.org



Laleham Gap School

Laleham Gap caters for pupils from 3-16 and is the county's leading provision for pupils with speech, language and communication difficulties.

THE FOLLOWING STAFF ARE REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

Both Posts will be paid Kent Scheme 3 (£14099 – 15984 pro-rata) **TEMP 1:1 LSA**

27.5 hours per week, term time only, between 8.50 am – 3.30 pm Monday – Friday. The role will be working flexibly across all subjects at our secondary school in Margate. An interest/flair for ICT would be an advantage.

RESIDENTIAL CARE WORKER (MATERNITY COVER)

To provide cover for up to one year for 35 hours plus 2 "sleep-in" duties per week during term time. Hours are primarily between 3 - 10 pm. Duties include planning and supervising activities for groups of residential pupils, preparing some meals and on-call duties when doing sleep-ins. NVQ 3 in Care would be favourable.

We are also keen to speak with people who may be interested in any type of casual/relief work in the school.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the young people in its care and all posts are subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure.

Closing Date is Monday 1 June

Please send a LARGE SAE for an application pack to the address below clearly indicating which post you are interested in.

Debbie Terzyski, Laleham Gap School, Northdown Park Road, Margate CT9 2TP

E-mail: Debbie.terzyski@laleham-gap.kent.sch.uk

Negotiator/Surveyor

required for busy general practice Estate Agents. Needs to be a good all-rounder with experience.

Apply in writing with CV to Norman Coles
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Phone: 01233 860760

**Project Manager**

Committed person with excellent people-skills sought for innovative charity. You will be responsible for our new creative community project in Herne Bay, Kent.

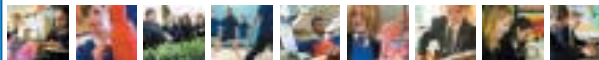
Pro rata £22,500 / initially 3 days part-time (flexible)

For more information see www.peopleunited.org.uk, email info@peopleunited.org.uk or contact Tom Andrews on 01227 470973. Closing date for applications 26 May (noon).

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In appointing teaching colleagues, we look for candidates who enjoy working with young people and forge positive relationships with them. An enthusiasm for new approaches and ideas is also important.

Further details of all posts and application forms are available on our website www.spireacademy.com or alternatively, contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spireacademy.com

Closing date: 15th May 2009.

Spire Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

**Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School**

Maidstone Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3EL

Tel: 01634 844008

email: harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

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An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1180 students including 300 in the co-educational Sixth Form

'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted November 2008 –
"a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

Teacher of Spanish and French

An enthusiastic teacher is required to cover maternity leave from 1st September 2009. The Modern Languages department enjoys a newly equipped language laboratory and run trips to Spain and France on an annual basis. The school is twinned with Lycée St Marc near Bourgoin, and has e-mail links with schools in Spain.

The successful candidate will be an effective classroom practitioner and be committed to enabling all students to achieve their full potential

OFSTED 2008 commented that students have a "willingness to participate in the wide range of opportunities available to them, to show initiative and to assume responsibility". Behaviour was found to be "exemplary".

If you are interested in applying for this post, then please contact the Headteacher's PA, Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check

Closing date for applications – 20th May 2009

**Gravesend Grammar School for Girls**

A Specialist Science College

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE

Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195

Website: www.gsg.org.uk

email: enquiries@gsg.org.uk

**TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS****Maternity Cover – September 2009**

We are looking for a well-qualified and enthusiastic Teacher of Mathematics to join a highly successful Faculty. The person appointed would be required to teach up to A' Level. Maths is a very popular option with students and a high proportion go on to study a Mathematical course in Higher Education.

The person appointed will receive high quality mentoring and support. The Faculty enjoys excellent facilities and equipment.

We have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004; this has led to a broad range of innovative practice across the school and we are looking to develop cross-curricular projects involving Mathematics.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term.

The School is also an Investor in People and an Investor in Careers.

Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of **Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher** no later than

Thursday 21st May 2009

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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The ideal candidate will therefore be joining during a period of significant change with the opportunity to develop your career within this stimulating environment. You will already have direct experience of working for a senior manager and be fully familiar with the demands and rewards of working at this level.

Reporting directly for and supporting the Principal and Chief Executive, you will hold a position of responsibility, developing strong working relationships with the Directors, Senior Leadership Team, Governors and external Stakeholders involved across the MidKent College Group.

Interested: Please forward your CV to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk or call him on 07725 128661 (after 12th May) for an informal discussion.

A full Job Description/Person Specification and application can be seen at www.midkent.ac.uk

Closing Date: 25th May 2009



MidKent College

MidKent College is an equal opportunity employer
The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.

17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.

18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

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c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.

d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due to the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.

e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.

f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.

23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.

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25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.

26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.

27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.

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To request an application pack please telephone: 01474-533990

or email: sue.harman@alz-dem.org by 19th May 2009



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Church of England School

Humanities College

Meadow Road, Gravesend

Kent DA11 7LS

Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 561536

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College

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All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email dharialw@saingorgecofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saingorgecofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 19 May 2009



Saint George's

Church of England School

Humanities College

Meadow Road, Gravesend

Kent DA11 7LS

Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 561536

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College

11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

TEACHER OF HUMANITIES

Required for September 2009

Main Pay Scale

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All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email dharialw@saingorgecofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saingorgecofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 15 May 2009

GENERAL MECHANICAL ENGINEER - Woodchurch

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Salary: negotiable. Hours: TBA

Contract: e-mail enquiries@colson.com

Phone: 01233 860760

The Folkestone academy

Required for September 2009

TEACHER OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

MPS

A specialist teacher of Additional Educational Needs is required to join our successful team, working with students with specific learning difficulties and ASD across the Key Stages both individually and in small groups. This is an exciting time to join the department as we move towards becoming an All Age Academy.

A commitment to the ethos of inclusion is essential. You will have the ability to establish strong working relationships with young people and colleagues and will bring enthusiasm and new ideas to the classroom to make learning fun and engaging.

Full details and an application form are available on our website www.folkestoneacademy.com Alternatively, telephone Sally Taylor on 01303 842400

Closing date: Monday 18 May at 5pm

Interviews: Friday 22 May

The Folkestone Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

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The Folkestone academy

Required for September 2009

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Full details and an application form are available on our website www.folkestoneacademy.com Alternatively, telephone Sally Taylor on 01303 842400


Closing date: Monday 18 May at 5pm

Interviews: Friday 22 May

The Folkestone Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

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Losing draw poor start for Bapchild

BAPCHILD struggled in their opening game in Division Five of the Kent League as they played out a losing draw against Old Williamsonsians.

Batting first, Old Williamsonsians were bowled out for 193 with opener Jayant Yewale top scoring with 90.

In reply, Bapchild's batsman struggled with only Adam Larking (26), Lincoln Bryden (37) and Henry Fairweather (27) registering any sort of score as Bapchild ended on 155 for seven.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON
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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Mark Stimson looks back on his play-off experiences as player and manager

Court pairing wrack up big score for win

A PARTNERSHIP of 205 between Paul Geary and Aaron Glass helped Gore Court 2nd XI thrash The Mote by nine wickets at the weekend.

Skipper Geary finished unbeaten on 76 while Glass, who also plays for Gore Court hockey team, smashed an unbeaten 115 from 114 balls, including 16 fours and three sixes, to see their side home with more than nine overs to spare.

Having inserted the opposition, Court's bowlers did well to restrict the opposition to 205 for eight after Richard Coles (66) and Alan Barr (65) had put on a 100-run partnership for the fourth wicket for The Mote.

CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON

Richard Jackson claimed tidy figures of two for 21 while Nigel Sharp ended with three for 78.

In reply, Gore Court lost Matt Tombs to a second ball duck and it was then left to Glass and Geary to see their side home.

Gore Court's 1st XI came up against a strong St Lawrence side in their opening game of the season at the weekend.

Court batted first and scored 211 for seven from 55 overs, but the home side chased the score down with relative ease to win by nine wickets.



Picture: GORE KOPRO

DEFEATED: Gore Court 1st XI (in bat) lost by nine wickets against St Lawrence

Kent League Premier Division 2nd XI Gore Court 2nd XI v The Mote 2nd XI

The Mote

	Runs
Andrew Barr b Jackson	0
Kraig Corke b Jackson	14
Howard Waters ct Plesley b Crompton	10
Richard Coles ct Geary b Slater	66
Alan Barr ct Crompton b Sharp	65
Warren Jackson st Plesley b Sharp	30
Paul Merwood c & b Slater	0
Christopher Bell ct Geary b Sharp	6
Chris Coles not out	0
Richard Usher did not bat	
Ruwan Galappaththi did not bat	

Extras (4b 8lb 2w) 14
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) 205

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Dave Crompton	15	6	41	1
Richard Jackson	10	3	21	2
Nigel Sharp	15	2	78	3
Rob Slater	10	0	53	2

Gore Court

	Runs
Paul Geary not out	76
Matt Tombs ct Coles b Galappaththi	0
Aaron Glass not out	115
Rob Slater did not bat	
Shaun Plesley did not bat	
Paul Clunn did not bat	
Richard Jackson did not bat	
Nigel Sharp did not bat	
Ali Rushworth did not bat	
James Lelliott did not bat	
Dave Crompton did not bat	

Extras (2b 6lb 7w) 15
Total (1 wicket, 40.4 overs) 206

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Ruwan Galappaththi	8.4	3	39	1
Paul Merwood	4	0	30	0
Andrew Barr	10	1	38	0
Christopher Bell	8	0	45	0
Richard Usher	7	0	24	0
Howard Waters	3	0	22	0

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT CRICKET LEAGUE

Upchurch 1st XI v Linden Park 1st XI

UPCHURCH cruised to a five-wicket win in their opening game of the season against Linden Park. Tim Mullis' four for 28 helped bowl the visitors out for 123 after 45 overs. In reply, Jim Phillips (19) and Alan Collis (28) put on 48 for the first wicket before they were both removed by Andy McBride. Andrew Shirley (30) and Lee Taylor (22) helped Upchurch over the winning line with 19 overs to spare.

Linden Park

	Runs
Neil Stephens	32
John Harvey	ct Shirley b Parker
Abhijit Kale	ct Taylor b Mullis
Stuart Clarke	not out
Ian Broadrick	ct Shirley b Mullis
Duncan Saunders	lbw b Mullis
Brian Gasking	lbw b Hodder
James Saunders	ct Shirley b Hodder
Mano Belvanis	ct Shirley b Mullis
Andy McBride	b Parker
David Waterfield	LBW b DParker
Extras	(2b 6lb 9w 4nb) 21
Total	(all out, 45 overs) 123

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Daniel Parker	8	0	34	3
Craig Bewick	7	0	26	0
Tim Mullis	15	2	28	4
Adam Hodder	15	3	27	3

Upchurch

	Runs
Jim Phillips	ct Saunders b McBride
Alan Collis	ct Ian Broadrick b McBride
Andrew Shirley	ct Abhijit Kale b Kale
Lee Taylor	lbw b Harvey
Michael Hales jnr	b Harvey
Michael Hales	not out
Adam Hodder	not out
Daniel Parker	did not bat
Dean Headley	did not bat
Craig Bewick	did not bat
Tim Mullis	did not bat
Extras	(4b 3w 1nb) 8
Total	(5 wickets, 31 overs) 124

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
David Waterfield	2	0	17	0
Andy McBride	7	0	35	2
John Harvey	13.5	3	40	2
Abhijit Kale	8	1	26	1

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1D

Ash 1st XI v Old Hartsdonians 1st XI

A CENTURY opening partnership between Dave Wheeler and Gary Wright set Old Hartsdonians on their way to a two wicket win against Ash at the weekend.

Ash scored a competitive 206 for eight from their 46 overs with Matt Williams claiming figures of three for 25 from 12 tight overs. Wheeler (55) and Wright (66) put on 102 for the first wicket before Peter Carey took four wickets to make it a nervy end for the visitors, but an unbeaten 42 from Aston Smith steered them home.

Ash

	Runs
Ed Norman	ct Smith b Williams
Neil Hopkins	ct Smith b Strike
Ben Laslett	ct West b Williams
Dan Laslett	ct West b Williams
Peter Carey	st Smith b Strike
Charlie Laslett	ct Pegg-Smith b Mackie
Gary Laslett	ct Smith b Mackie
Stuart Hume	ct Pegg-Smith b Pegg-Smith
Tom Laslett	not out
Steve Larkins	not out
Tim Smith	did not bat
Extras	(1b 12lb 15w 7nb) 35
Total	(8 wickets, 46 overs) 206

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Dave Wheeler	8	1	37	0
Matt Williams	12	5	25	3
Aston Smith	6	0	37	0
Bob Strike	12	0	54	2
Martin Mackie	8	1	40	2

Old Hartsdonians

	Runs
Dave Wheeler	st Hume b Smith
Gary Wright	ct Larkins b Carey
Andy West	lbw b Carey
Josh Smith	ct Laslett b Carey
Matt Williams	b Carey
Aston Smith	not out
Martin Mackie	lbw b Hopkins
Michael Turner	b Hopkins
Bob Strike	ct Laslett b Hopkins
Kane Pegg-Smith	not out
Jarrett Smith	did not bat
Extras	(3lb 9w 1nb) 13
Total	(8 wickets, 45.2 overs) 209

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Tom Laslett	9	0	44	0
Steve Larkins	7	2	22	0
Tim Smith	12	0	38	1
Neil Hopkins	9.2	1	52	3
Peter Carey	8	1	50	4

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Rodmersham 1st XI v Old Elthamians 1st XI

RODMERSHAM slipped to a five-run defeat in their opening game despite a thrilling 115 from Sandeep Rodrigo. Old Elthamians made the most of a good looking Bottles Lane wicket, running up 237 for eight from their 50 overs.

Rodrigo and Darren Nokes each taking two wickets apiece. The home side then slumped to 31 for three before Rodrigo and Lee Jackson (38) came together, putting on a valuable partnership of 71. Rodrigo then put on 94 with Nazoomi Azhar (43) but Rodmersham were bowled out five runs short.

Old Elthamians

	Runs
Andrew Hammond	c & b Karangutkar
Daniel Driscoll	ct Bayford b Nokes
Dylan De Beer	ct Horne b Nokes
Harsh Chauhan	lbw b Rodrigo
John Nicholls	ct Karangutkar b Rodrigo
Samuel Lockwood	run out
Dan Moore	run out
Amman Samsodeen	run out
Calum Nash	not out
Blaine Carey	not out
Charlie Matthews	did not bat
Extras	(10b 6lb 4w 1nb) 21
Total	(8 wickets, 50 overs) 237

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Sandeep Rodrigo	13	2	43	2
Darren Nokes	15	2	67	2
Nazoomi Azhar	8	1	50	0
Dylan Emmett	7	0	25	0
Sushant Karangutkar	7	1	37	1

Rodmersham

	Runs
Dave Cogger	ct Matthews b Carey
Robert Horne	lbw b Chauhan
Dylan Emmett	ct Samsodeen b Carey
Lee Jackson	lbw b Carey
Sandeep Rodrigo	ct Carey b De Beer
Sushant Karangutkar	ct Nash b Carey
Sam Blackwell	b Samsodeen
Darren Nokes	ct Matthews b Nicholls
Nazoomi Azhar	ct Matthews b Chauhan
Jack Bayford	ct Matthews b De Beer
Trevor Jackson	not out
Extras	(3b 5lb 3w) 11
Total	(all out, 47 overs) 232

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Blaine Carey	15	6	45	4
Harsh Chauhan	14	1	63	2
Amman Samsodeen	7	1	19	1
John Nicholls	6	0	58	1
Dylan De Beer	5	0	39	2

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Macknade 1st XI v Tunbridge Wells 1st XI

MACKNADE started the season with a six wicket win over league newcomers Tunbridge Wells 3rd XI. The home attack was boosted by James Jarrett and Kaylem Short, while Jamie Rigden took five for 26 to bowl the visitors out for 142. Macknade lost opener Gareth Abbott early on, but Short carried his bat to score 55 and although Danny Haxton and Andy Machin went cheaply, captain Lee Rigden and Scott Davenport saw the Faversham side home.

Tunbridge Wells

	Runs
Greg Brunker	lbw b Short
Emmerson Wood	ct Taylor b Short
Ben Allatt	ct Rowcroft b Jarrett
Elliott Hughes	b Rowcroft
James Sharp	ct Abbott b Rigden
Stefan Grosvenor	ct Taylor b Rowcroft
Makarand Malandkar	ct Rigden b J Rigden
David Wells	ct Taylor b J Rigden
Mark Thompson	ct Jarrett b J Rigden
Ben Watts	ct Rowcroft b J Rigden
Percy Watts	not out
Extras	(1b 1lb 3w 2nb) 7
Total	(all out, 46.4 overs) 142

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Kaylem Short	15	4	53	2
James Jarrett	10	1	33	1
Phil Rowcroft	7	0	25	2
Jamie Rigden	13.4	7	26	5
Darryl Cook	1	0	3	0

Macknade

	Runs
Gareth Abbott	lbw b Wood
Kaylem Short	not out
Andrew Machin	lbw b Thompson
Danny Haxton	b Thompson
Lee Rigden	ct Grosvenor b Allatt
Scott Davenport	not out
Steve Taylor	did not bat
Phil Rowcroft	did not bat
Jamie Rigden	did not bat
James Jarrett	did not bat
Darryl Cook	did not bat
Extras	(1b 8lb 4w 10nb) 23
Total	(3 wickets, 33 overs) 148

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Mark Thompson	13	3	41	2
Jack Wood	8	3	20	1
Ben Watts	4	0	25	0
Ben Allatt	1.4	0	18	1
Martin Watts	2.2	0	17	0
Stefan Grosvenor	4	0	18	0



TOP MAN: Ashley Brown is presented with one of his three awards from Faversham manager Justin Luchford

Brown shines at Town awards

DEFENDER Ashley Brown was the big winner at Faversham Town's annual presentation night after picking up three awards.

The young centre-back, 18, who progressed into Justin Luchford's first-team from the club's under-18s at the start of the season, was the stand-out performer and won a string of awards at the weekend's presentation night, held at Town's Salters Lane ground.

Brown, who has been put on contract at Salters Lane, picked up the Manager's Player, Players' Player and Supporters'

FOOTBALL

Player of the Year, to cap off a superb season.

The 2008/2009 campaign saw the first-team finish in fourth place, their best league position for 17 years, while the reserve side narrowly missed out on promotion to Division Two of the Kent League.

The biggest success of the season, however, has to be the club's under-18 side who ended the season as champions of the Kent Youth League's Southern

Division under the stewardship of manager Ray Turner.

Steffan Wall picked up the Golden Boot with 18 goals for the under-18s. Jamie Sparks and Taylor Johansen won Supporters' Player of the Year, while Richard Pennell was presented with the Manager's Player of the Year award by boss Turner.

Damian Abel's 24 goals won him the Golden Boot for the first-team, while Shane Hamshare picked up an award for his consistent performances throughout the season.



DEJECTED: Shane Byrne was left disappointed with his performance after picking up just two points at Monza despite having won a warm-up event at the circuit the previous week

Lack of speed prevents Shakey doing Italian job

SHANE Byrne criticised his own performance after a disappointing display in the fifth round of the World Superbike Championship at the famous Monza circuit.

The Sheppey rider went into the round full of confidence after securing his first race win since October, by winning an Italian Superbike Championship race at Monza just a week before.

Once again, Byrne struggled to get up to speed in qualifying and missed out on the battle for pole position. The reigning British Superbike champion was hampered by electrical problems on his Ducati and only managed to secure 15th on the grid.

SUPERBIKES

BY TOM HOWARD

He said: "I don't know what happened but the bike had a problem. I'm really sorry because I know I could've improved my time and fight for the top eight spots in the third session of the Superpole."

"Unfortunately, we keep having incidents during practice and this prevents us from tackling the race from a better starting position."

The first race didn't go to plan for Byrne, but he managed to escape the carnage at the tight first corner chicane, which saw the race

stopped. Byrne did well from the restart and picked up a couple of positions, but he soon fell down the field and eventually finished in 14th place, earning two points.

Byrne's race one disappointment was compounded in the final race of the day, as he finished outside the points in a lowly 18th position.

He said: "My morale is shattered. I did know that it would be hard to score a good result on this track, but I was expecting a better performance on my part. Now I just have to forget everything and try to improve with help from the crew starting this week."

Byrne will be hoping his form will improve at the next round of the World Superbike Championship at Kyalami, in South Africa, on Sunday.

CRICKET



Picture ADY KERRY

HITTING THE BIG TIME: Sam Northeast

Northeast makes the most of Kent start

HAVING turned up at the ground ready for a spot of 12th man duty, perhaps it was always written that Sam Northeast would find himself opening the batting and hitting his highest First Class score.

The 19-year-old was told 45 minutes before Kent's County Championship Division Two game with Glamorgan last week, that he was in the side to replace Joe Denly who was suffering with a migraine. Ten minutes later and he was padded up ready to open the innings with skipper Rob Key on a lively deck at St Lawrence, where he went on to hit a career best of 87.

"It was daunting but I have been in form and didn't feel I had to do too much more in preparation as I've been in good nick," he said. "I knew I had a chance of playing, but then to be told I was opening was a shock."

With Darren Stevens out for four weeks with a fractured finger, Northeast will hope to beat off competition from Justin Kemp to make the spot his own.

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Gills defender Simon King looks back on the play-off final showdown

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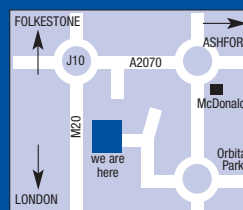
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